Electronic virus attack cripples Internet traffic

Story in World, PAGE A11

Burnham lives on in Basilan school

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ISABELA CITY, Basilan—Martin Burnham lives on even after his death in the hands of his Abu Sayyaf captors during a military rescue operation in Zamboanga del Norte last year.

The American missionary's name is etched in a library that was set up at the

BURNHAM/ A4

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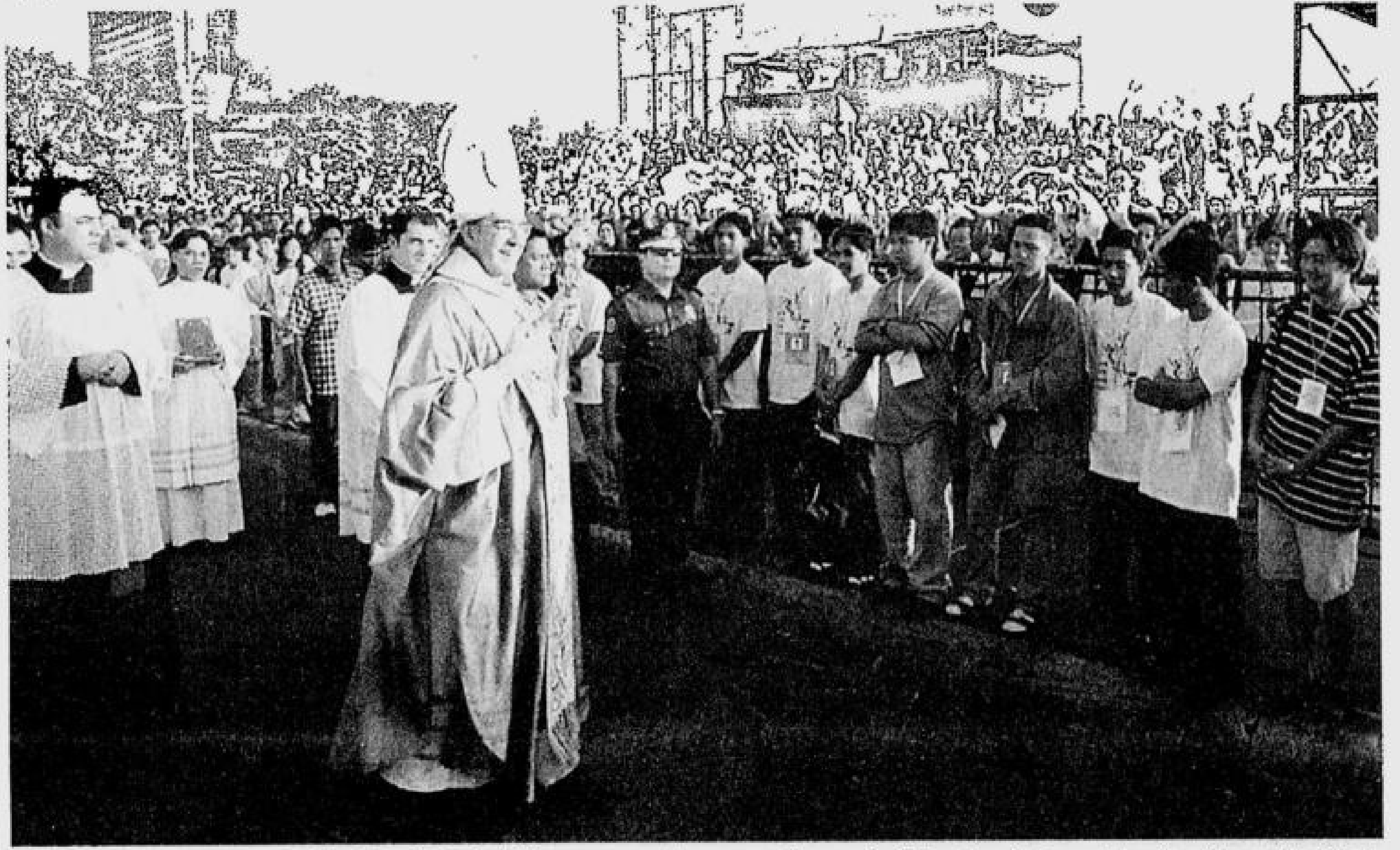
Kintanar widow tells Joma: Don't play God

CPP claims responsibility for killing ex-NPA chief



CARDINAL Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, Pope John Paul II's representative, greets thousands of devotees before celebrating Mass at the Rizal Park at the end of the 4th World Meeting of Families.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Gov'ts, solons urged: Invest in families

By Armand N. Nocum

GOVERNMENTS the world over should make substantial investments in families as building blocks for nation-building instead of using poverty as a reason for supporting abortion.

Alfonso Cardinal Lopez Trujillo, Pope John Paul II's representative to the Fourth World Meeting of Families in Manila, made the call on Sunday amid the increasing acceptance by governments of abortion as a means of controlling population growth.

"There is no better investment for the government, for legislators, than to favor the families, strengthen their unity, support them, not to obstruct the mission and rights of spouses," he said in a homily at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park. *(See related story in Metro, Page A26.)*

"Parliaments that approve unjust and harmful laws violate the rights of families, their right to respect life, and their right for wholesome education for their children," he added.

Speaking before a crowd of about 700,000 that attended the early morning Mass, Trujillo said lawmaking bodies that approve "unjust and harmful laws violate the rights of families, their right to respect life, and their right to wholesome education for their children."

GOV'TS/ A18

By Agnes Donato, TJ Burgonio, Carlito Pablo and Christian Esguerra

THE WIDOW of former New People's Army Romulo Kintanar has four words to say to Jose Ma. Sison and other communist leaders: "Please, don't play God."

Ma. Gloria "Joy" Asuncion-Kintanar issued the statement after the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) broke its three-day silence on Kintanar's killing and finally confirmed what the military and police suspected all along.

The CPP leadership yesterday claimed responsibility for the killing of Kintanar, saying it was "absolutely correct" to put an end to his alleged crimes, including the kidnapping of a Japanese executive and plotting to kill Sison.

In a statement, CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal admitted it was a special team of NPA assassins who gunned down Kintanar on Thursday as he was having lunch at the Kamameshi restaurant inside the Quezon City Memorial Circle.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Rosal's statement only confirmed that the CPP, together with its armed wing, "is a terrorist and criminal organization of the worst kind."

"This clearly justifies the government's policy of counter force against the CPP-NPA, which has lost all legitimacy in its struggle," Bunye said.

He said the campaign would target not only armed communist rebels but also their "front organizations" and "militant cells" operating in Metro Manila.

In his statement, however, Rosal said Kintanar was meted out the death penalty not for his "ideological, political and organiza-

KINTANAR/ A20

SALAS: No ideology, politics in helping poor communities.

Foundation to unite ex-cadres in projects

By Carlito Pablo

WHEN President Macapagal-Arroyo received visiting US Secretary of State Colin Powell in Malacañang on Aug. 3 last year, the event was extensively covered by media.

On that same day but away from the spotlight, the President also gave an audience to two men who, between themselves, were credited for the phenomenal growth of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), from the late '70s to the mid-'80s.

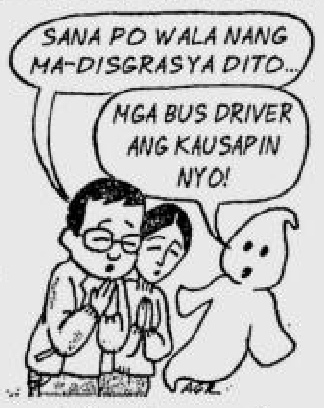
One of the visitors was Romulo Kintanar, the former NPA chief who was gunned down by his ex-comrades in a Quezon City restaurant last week.

The other was Rodolfo Salas, known in the underground as "Ka Bilog" and who became CPP chair from 1977, when founding party chair Jose Ma. Sison was captured, until early 1986.

Kintanar and Salas informed the President that they were working on a project that would tap the leadership skills of former cadres for nation-building.

"We've gone legal and we're no longer part of the party, but we still want to continue helping the

FOUNDATION A20



SANA PO WALA NANG MA-DISGRASYA DITO...
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Kin to seek aid of Kennon Road spirits

By Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Could the spirits of Japanese workers who died while building Kennon Road help make the 34-km stretch less-accident prone now, 100 years later?

About 200 of their descendants will visit the city next month to try and ask them, in the course of celebrating the scenic route's centennial and participating in the first-ever Japanese arts festival here.

Leopoldo Escano, executive director of the Filipino-Japanese Foundation of Northern Luzon Inc., said the visitors would make rit-

KIN/ A6

US rift with Europe shakes alliance

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE DEEPENING rift between the United States and its leading European allies over an early war with Iraq is shaking the foundations of the transatlantic alliance with a seismic intensity not seen since the end of World War II.

Germany and France, which had fought three wars for more than 70 years until the 1963 Elyseé Treaty of Reconciliation, have coalesced into a united front to repulse the US rush to war with the demand that the United Nations weapons team be given more time to search for hidden weapons of mass destruction and that any military action in Iraq should be authorized by a second UN Security Council resolution.

Russia and China have lined up behind the Franco-German position on more time for the UN inspectors, and this alignment represents a Eurasian coalition embracing the major powers of Western Europe and the land mass of Russia and China in Asia. In geopolitical terms, the Iraq conflict has created a realignment of transcontinental proportions that depicts the growing isolation and unilateralism of the United States on an issue of war or peace.

The main European ally of the US war policy is Britain, although Prime Minister Tony Blair is trying to slow the tempo of the US march toward an early war by emphasizing to President George W. Bush the critical importance of giving more time for UN inspectors to avoid a break-up of the transatlantic alliance. Blair is agreeable to a few weeks extension, not a few months. Bush, impatient with the French and the Germans, have warned that the United States would attack Iraq with only a few allies (the "alliance of the willing") if the United States determines that Iraq does not disarm, with or without a new UN resolution.

According to the United States, it can count for military

US RIFT/ A18

PDI readers bring miracle to Nicole

By Cathy Babao Guballa

THEY say a miracle is not the suspension of natural law but the operation of a higher law.

The INQUIRER is happy to have helped once again in generating the positive energy upon which this higher law is founded—this time to deliver a miracle to Nicole Figueroa, a 9-year-old girl who

PDI/ A18

Gov't reactivates peace process despite killing

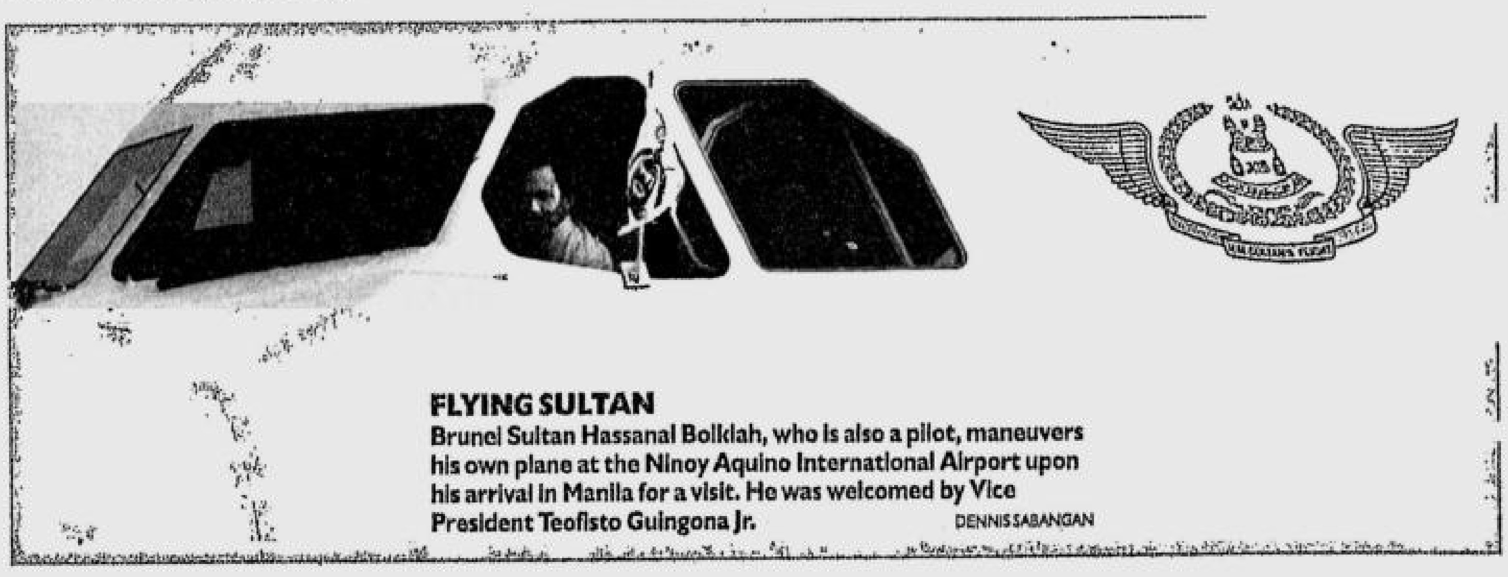
By Carlito Pablo, and Christine O. Avendaño

THE GOVERNMENT will pursue peace negotiations with communist rebels despite their admission that they were behind the assassination of Romulo Kintanar, a former New People's Army chief who was working with the government at the time of his death.

Government chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III said his panel would soon hold an "exploratory meeting" with rebel representatives to jump-start the talks, which the government suspended in 2001 after communist rebels killed former Representatives Rodolfo Aguinaldo and Marcial Punzalan Jr.

"It's better if we can resume talks by February so we can have a peace agreement by July, and by December, we'll have substantial

GOV'T/ A20



FLYING SULTAN
Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, who is also a pilot, maneuvers his own plane at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon his arrival in Manila for a visit. He was welcomed by Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr.
DENNIS SABANGAN

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG PDI RESEARCH/06/28/02

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rain
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

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Second FRONT PAGE

Gang wants ₱2M for Japanese

BUTUAN CITY—The kidnap gang holding a Japanese businessman hostage in Lanuza, Surigao del Sur province has demanded ransom for his freedom, police said yesterday.

Hazumitsu Hashiba, a 48-year-old trader from Tokyo, was snatched from his rented house in Barangay Bunga in Lanuza on Thursday.

Caraga police blamed the Kingking Salahay kidnap gang composed of Manobo tribesmen.

The kidnappers contacted Hashiba's Filipino wife, Mercedita Lupio, on Saturday and demanded a ransom of P2 million, Caraga police chief Alberto Olario said.

"The government is firm, it will not pay any ransom and we are doing everything possible to end this problem peacefully," Olario said.

He said negotiations have started with the bandit group but the police were preparing a rescue plan in case the talks bogged down.

Five men barged into the house of Hashiba, who trades in marine products, at about 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

A neighbor, Vicente Lopio, said the men were armed with pistols and wore bonnets.

Olario said the bandits also took P50,000 in cash and several pieces of jewelry from Hashiba's wife.

The bandits hogtied the wife and their maid and took off with the Japanese trader in the latter's Toyota Corolla in the direction of Surigao City to the north. The getaway car was recovered by police in Sison town in Surigao del Norte on Friday.

Olario said the bandits are believed to be holed up in the border of Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur.

He assured foreigners living in the region that they were safe. He said the Hashiba abduction was an isolated case.

Meanwhile, two members of the gang that abducted a 13-year-old girl in Cagayan de Oro City on Jan. 8 are believed to have been killed in a clash with government troops on Saturday in Datu Odin Sinsuat town in Maguindanao.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the two, identified only as Talib and Kadil, were involved in the Cagayan de Oro City kidnapping.

David Ampatuan, 27, the kidnap group's leader, and two other gang members were arrested during a raid on a "safe house" in Cotabato City on Friday that freed the kidnapped girl.

Ando said soldiers recovered the slain suspects' handguns and a bag containing maps, hand grenades and ammunition. *Franklin A. Caliguid and Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with a report from AFP*

Dr. Lava, old rebel, laid to rest in Bulacan

BULACAN, Bulacan—Unfurling 20 red flags dominated by the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas standard, some 300 Filipino communist "oldtimers" yesterday accompanied the ashes of their former secretary general, Dr. Jesus Lava, to his final resting place at the Nuestra Señora de la Asuncion Church here.

Lava's ashes, in a white marble urn, were carried by Emiliano "Ka Miling" Castro, his nephew and longtime personal aide.

The funeral march began at 2 p.m., after the *luksang parangal* (memorial service) staged by Lava's former comrades from Central Luzon, Bicol and Southern Tagalog. His remains were cremated on Saturday.

Lava was 88 when he died of prostate and bone cancer on Jan. 21.

Casto Alejandrino, a top PKP leader, said the "struggle for nationalism and democracy" would continue even after the death of Lava, known by his underground name of "Ka Pacing." *Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Peace with MILF seen by 2004

THE MACAPAGAL administration may yet succeed in concluding a peace agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front before the President bows out of office in 2004, according to Libya's ambassador to the Philippines.

Ambassador Salem Adam said that judging by the pace of the ongoing negotiations between the government and the MILF, peace could come even before Ms Macapagal hands over the reins of government to her successor.

Libya was one of the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference that helped broker the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo is on the right track in dealing with the Muslims in the south. She has earned the respect of most Muslims for that," Adam said at a recent press conference.

During a visit to Davao City last week, the President said the government was finalizing a draft peace agreement to be presented to the MILF in March.

Adam said the MILF was far from being the terrorist organization that some intelligence reports portray it to be.

Since the MILF was continuing peace negotiations with the government, it did not deserve the terrorist tag, he said.

In a meeting with reporters in Davao City last week, Adam urged the government and the MILF to work together to hunt down the so-called "lost commands" that he said had been endangering the peace process.

Lost commands are armed renegade members of the MILF and MNLF that have turned to banditry and kidnapping.

The MILF claims the military has been using the activities of the lost commands as an excuse to stage assaults on its camps in Mindanao.

"The government and the MILF should run after the lost commands to solve this problem," Adm said.

The ambassador said Libya would make a formal recommendation on this during the next meeting of government and rebel negotiators. *Norman Bordadora with a report from Joel B. Escovilla and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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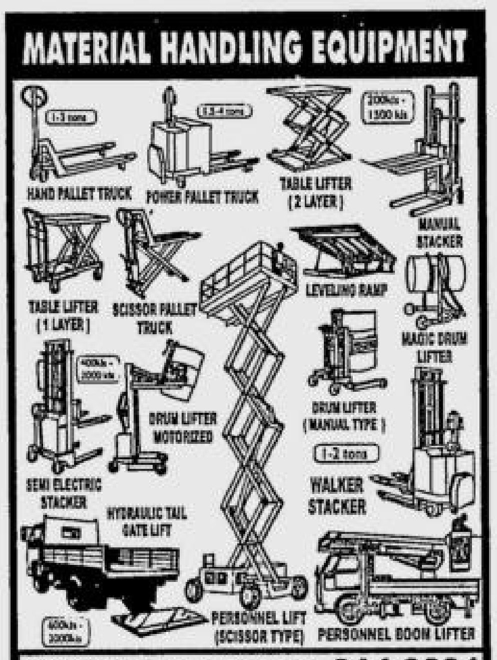
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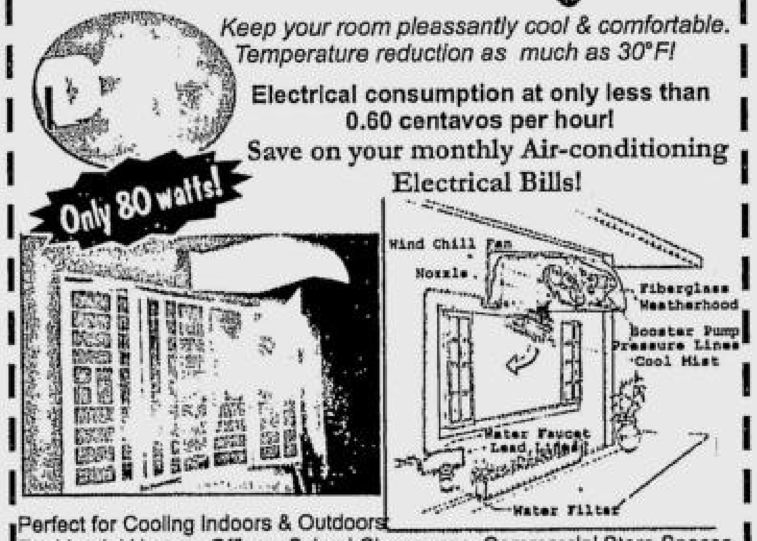
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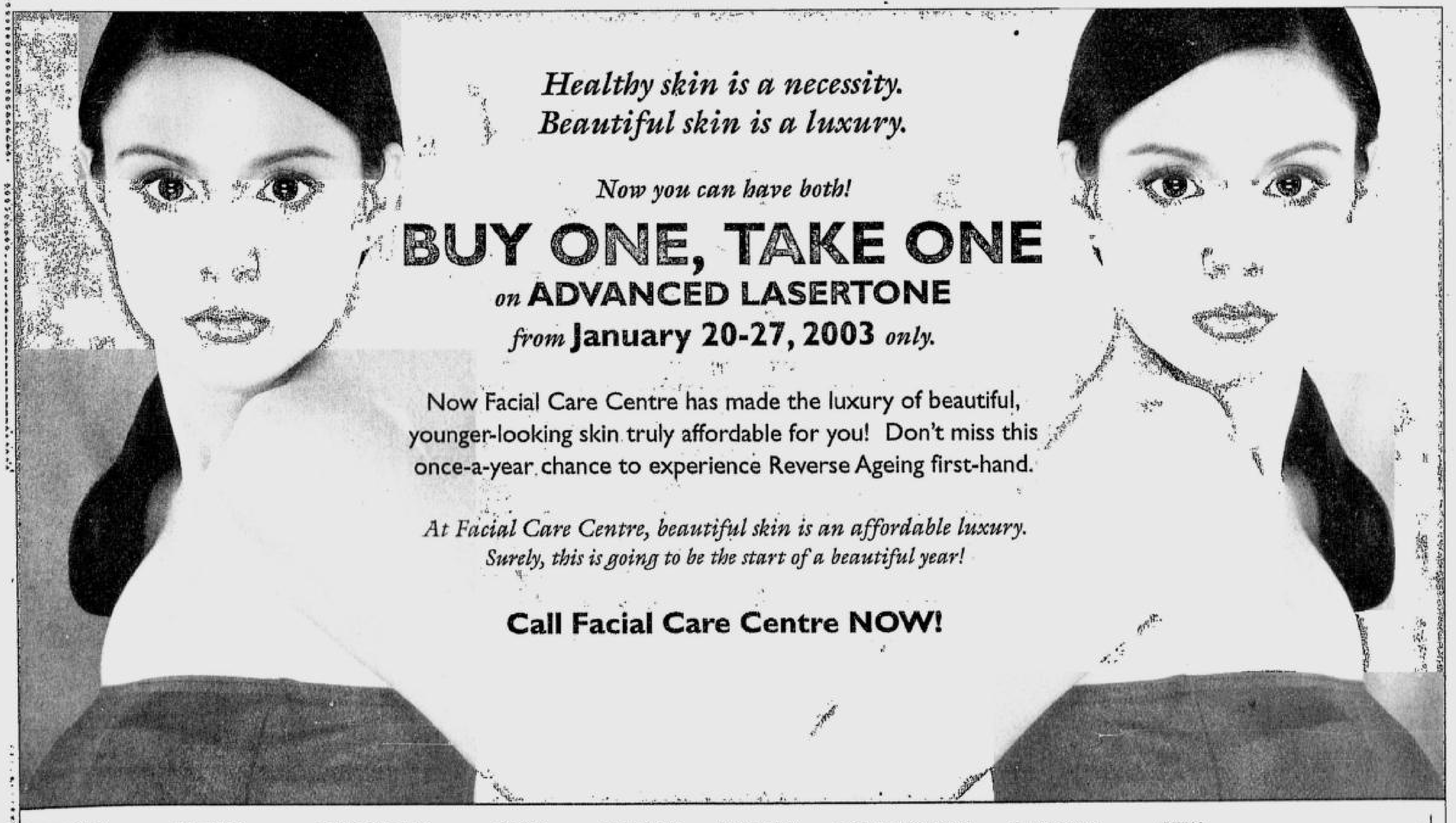
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Burnham lives on in Basilan school

From page A1

Sunset Elementary School in Barangay Tabuk here for the benefit of more than 3,000 pupils.

Nancy Harrington, president of the Books for the Barrios Foundation, said her family decided to put up the small library in honor of Burnham inside an old classroom with a floor area of about 36 square meters.

The book donors included American children across the United States, publishing companies such as the National Geographic, and US-based Filipino journalist and publisher Dean Bocobo, she said.

Harrington said Burnham and his wife, who is also a missionary, always served as an inspiration to her family and the foundation because of what they displayed during their captivity.

The couple, who belonged to the Florida-based New Tribe Mission and had been staying in the Philippines for 15 years, was abducted by the Abu Sayyaf bandits on May 27, 2001 while celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary at the Dos Palmas Resort in Puerto Princesa City.

Their captivity, lasting a year and 11 days, was seen as the Philippines' longest hostage saga involving foreigners.

They refused to be overtaken by terror and always told their family and sympathizers to completely put their trust in God, Harrington said.

Burnham, a pilot who served the mission by bringing medicine and literacy materials for minority groups, was killed when Army soldiers tried to rescue the Abu Sayyaf hostages in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, on June 7, 2002.

His wife, who handled radio communications for the mission, survived with a bullet wound and was flown back to her hometown in Kansas.

The Martin Burnham Library offers more than 1,000 books on mathematics, English and science, as well as colorful toys for the children.

"This is the only library where you can see many colorful toys and really vivid picture books and classics, novels and kindergarten books," Harrington said while inspecting the collections.

She said the children would be allowed to play inside the library, a policy that runs counter to what other reading centers implement.

"I want the kids to learn and, at the same time, play. Socialization is one of the best approaches to learning and it empowers them," Harrington said.

Adoracion Cristobal, the school principal, said the teachers pooled their creative talents to organize the reading materials in just eight weeks after these were delivered on Dec. 5 last year.

"Though what we did was not the best, the library could at least provide a decent reading center for our school children," Cristobal said.

The library will be open even on weekends so that the children will have more time reading, she said.

Going there can also help them devote more time for productive activities rather than just roam around, she added.

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Tillers strongly oppose Pagdanganan at DAR

"*Hari ng* land conversion, *salot sa magbubukid.*" (King of land conversions, plague of the farmers.)

This was how a new national coalition of farmers, fisherfolk and other food producers—the Alyansa Agrikultura (AA)—described Roberto Pagdanganan, the secretary of agrarian reform appointed recently by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Pagdangan is a former Bulacan governor and was until recently Cooperative Development Authority chief.

Members of AA led by the Demokratikong Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Buklod ng Malayang Magbubukid, Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan, Peasant Alliance of Samar and Leyte, and nongovernment organizations Philippine Peasant Institute and Coconut Industry Reform Movement said that aside from having no background in agrarian reform, Pagdanganan had been vice chair of the National Real Estate Association (NREA).

The NREA is one of the biggest real estate associations under the Realty Service Council of the Philippines.

"Pagdanganan's appointment, with his ignorance of the intricacies of agrarian reform coupled with his track record [of service] in real estate, are major blows to the continuing fight for genuine agrarian reform," said Romeo Royondonan, president of the Philippine Peasant Institute.

Pagdanganan has belied the peasant groups' statements and said DAR was targeting the distribution of some 100,000 hectares of private lands to farmers. *Christine A. Gaylican*

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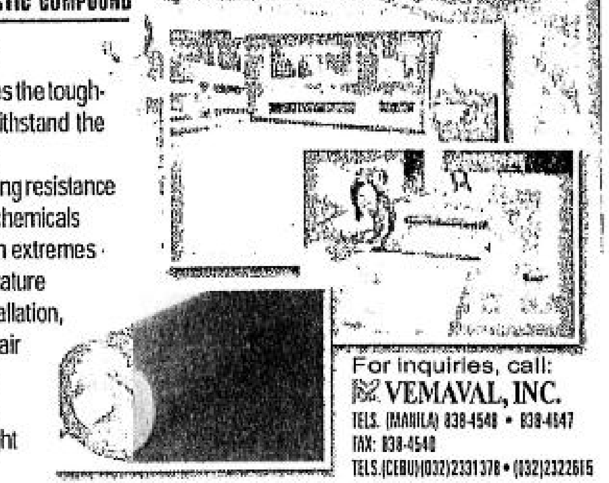

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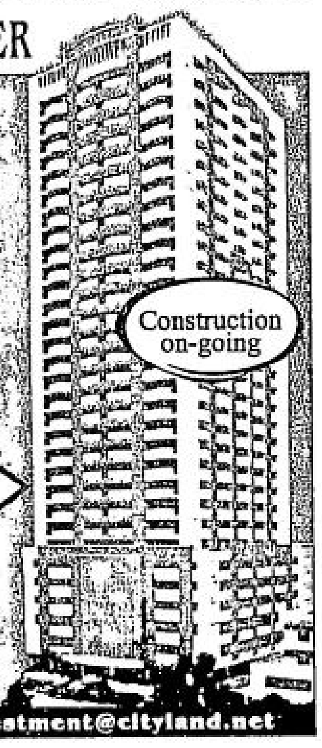

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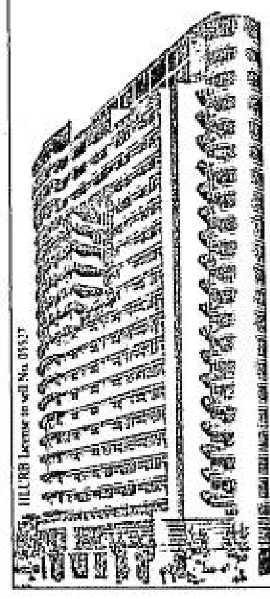

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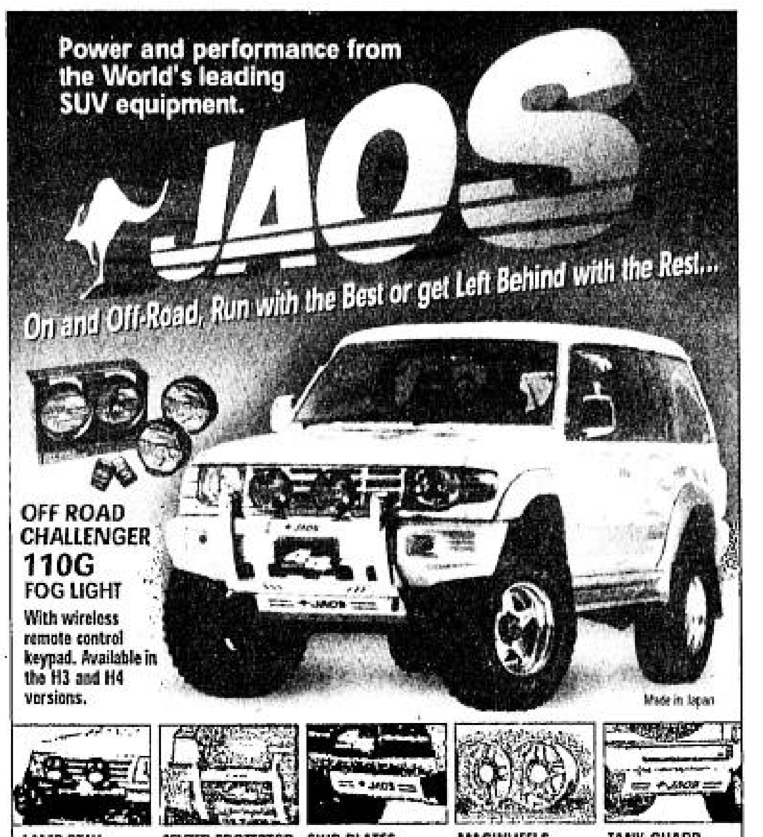
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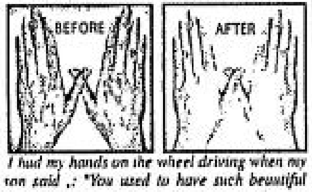

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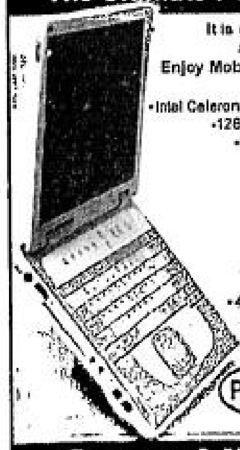

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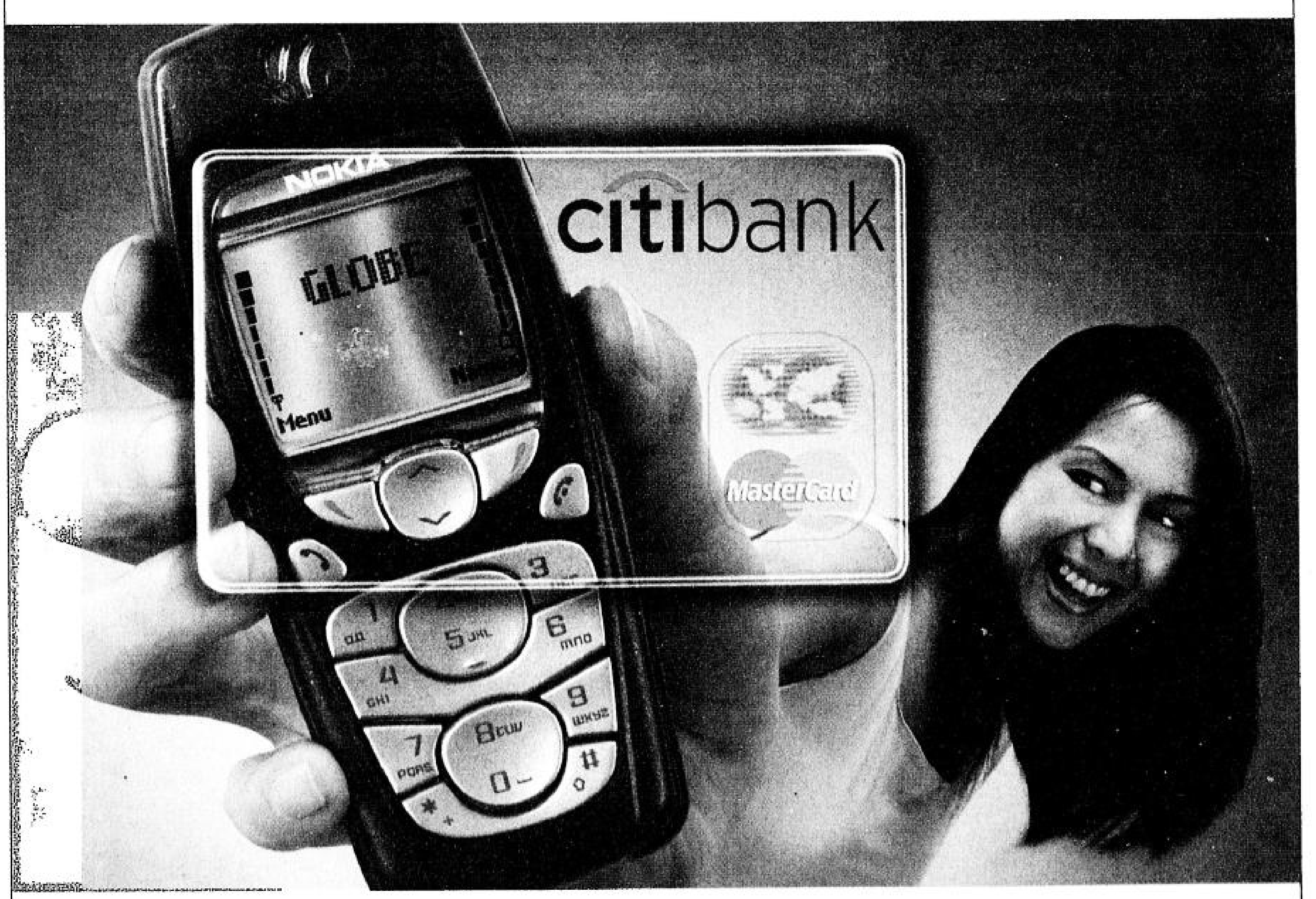

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Kin to seek aid of Kennon Road spirits

From page A1

ual stops at select sections of the road to invoke their ancestors' virtual cooperation in an intensified campaign for safety.

Specifically, these would be portions of the roadside where at least 1,000 Japanese workers were buried after they succumbed to dysentery and cholera during Kennon's construction.

Because there was no way to transport the remains of the dead to the lowlands for a decent burial, Escano said, fellow workers just covered them with concrete and carried on with the work.

Escano is a descendant of Victor Teraoka, one of 15 Japanese foremen for the project.

Documents that his own family has kept form part of the foundation's records, which say that more than 3,500 Japanese laborers participated in building what was originally called Benguet Road, starting on Feb. 20, 1903.

"There were also Chinese and Italian laborers, as well as Aetas," Escano said.

The shortest route to the country's Summer Capital, the road was named after Maj. Lymann Kennon, the American official who oversaw the project through its completion in 1906. Every 10 years since 1980, the Filipino-Japanese foundation has been honoring the builders.

Escano said at least 6,000 descendants of Japanese families in the Cordillera are expected to join other aspects of the centennial celebration as part of the Baguio Flower Festival or "Panagbenga 2003" next month.

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AFP reshuffle looms

A MAJOR reshuffle in the Armed Forces of the Philippines hierarchy is in the offing.

The revamp was prompted by the need to fill the vice chief of staff post and involves at least five generals.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garica, Northern Luzon Command chief, was named AFP vice chief of staff taking over from Gen. Dionisio Santiago, who was appointed recently AFP chief of staff by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, head of the 8th Infantry Division, is being groomed to take over the post vacated by Garica.

Other movements involve Brig. Gen. Glenn Rabonza, who has been recommended to take over the 8th ID, and Brig. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, who would be taking over from Rabonza as deputy chief for intelligence or J-2.

Maj. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag of the 4th ID is being eyed as the Army's vice commander. He would be replacing Maj. Gen. Pedro Atienza who is retiring next month.

Being groomed to replace Dagudag is AFP vice chief of staff for capability, Maj. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing.

"There is still no replacement for Balaoing at J-9," a ranking AFP source said.

Rabonza and Garcia are members of Philippine Military Academy Class '70 while Dominguez belongs to PMA Class '71. *Martin P. Marfil*

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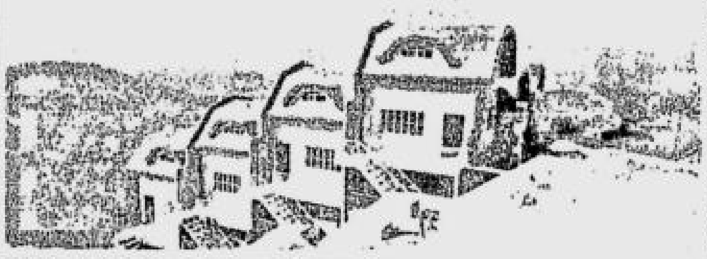
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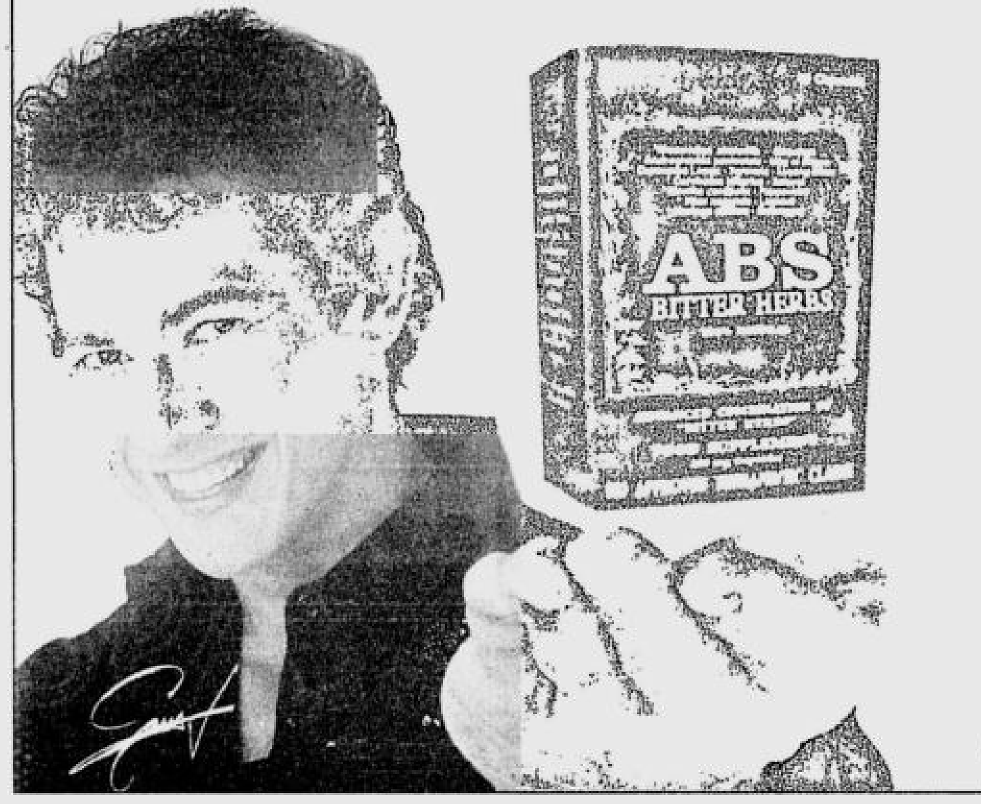
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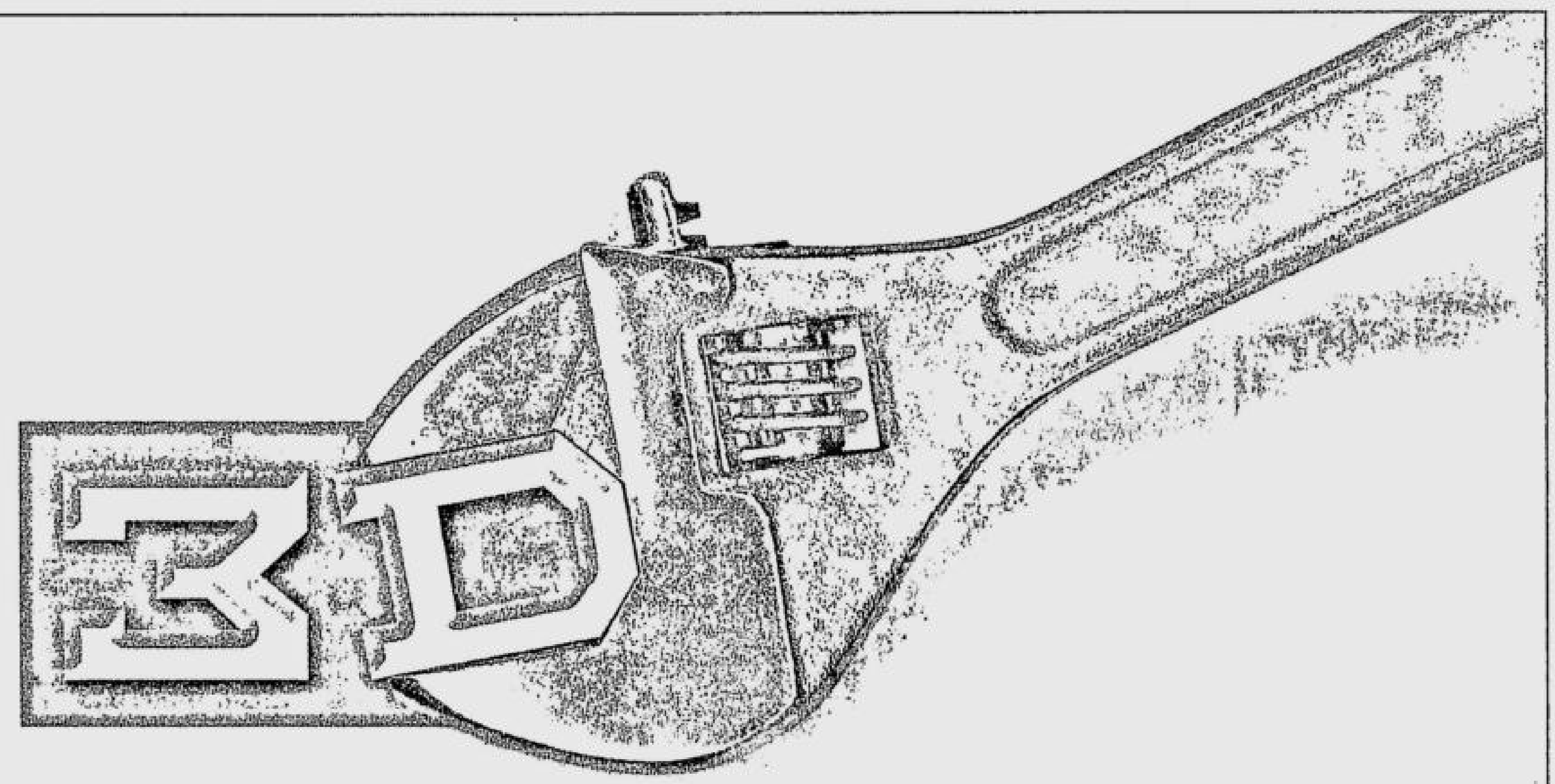
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Left behind

EDITORIAL

THE BANGKOK Post reported last week that the Thai government had "quietly awarded a contract" to a Hong Kong engineering company "to conduct a feasibility study on the ambitious plan to dig a canal across the Kra Isthmus."

Ambitious does not begin to describe it. A canal in the south of Thailand that would link the Andaman Sea with the Gulf of Thailand, a commentator in the South China Morning Post observed, "could turn Singapore, some say, into the world's former busiest port."

The project is by one estimate expected to cost some $35 billion—if it pushes through. That's a very big if, because the basic idea is as old as it is grand. Through the years, the idea to build a canal that will allow ships from Europe and the Middle East to bypass the "congested and pirate-infested" Strait of Malacca on their way to Asia has drawn its share of skeptics.

And the Thai government has neither the money nor the inclination to fund the canal's construction. Even the feasibility study will be paid for by the Hong Kong company, Phuket Pass Project, which has already committed an initial investment of $50 million.

Will the canal prove to be Thailand's field of dreams? For now, the answer is not as important as the question. Thailand—the Philippines' closest ally in the region, and in many ways almost the country's mirror image—is thinking big, thinking 10 or 20 years down the road, and international investors are bankrolling their big ideas.

In contrast, the Philippines thinks ahead only to the next election. As a result, the country is stuck resolutely in the past, fighting old battles all over again. The manufactured clamor for constitutional change is one example. This campaign assumes that political maturity and economic growth are dependent on crucial social documents—as if the endemic problems of, say, corruption in government or the boom-bust economic cycle can be truly, finally, solved only when the constitutional slate is wiped clean and the country begins all over again. But surely this kind of thinking has been proven false already—in the first half of the 20th century!

The perpetual struggle for clean elections and an honest count is another example. The National Movement for Free Elections was set up, not without controversy, in the 1950s. That there is still a pressing need for its existence today is a sweeping indictment not only of the organization but of the country's entire electoral infrastructure.

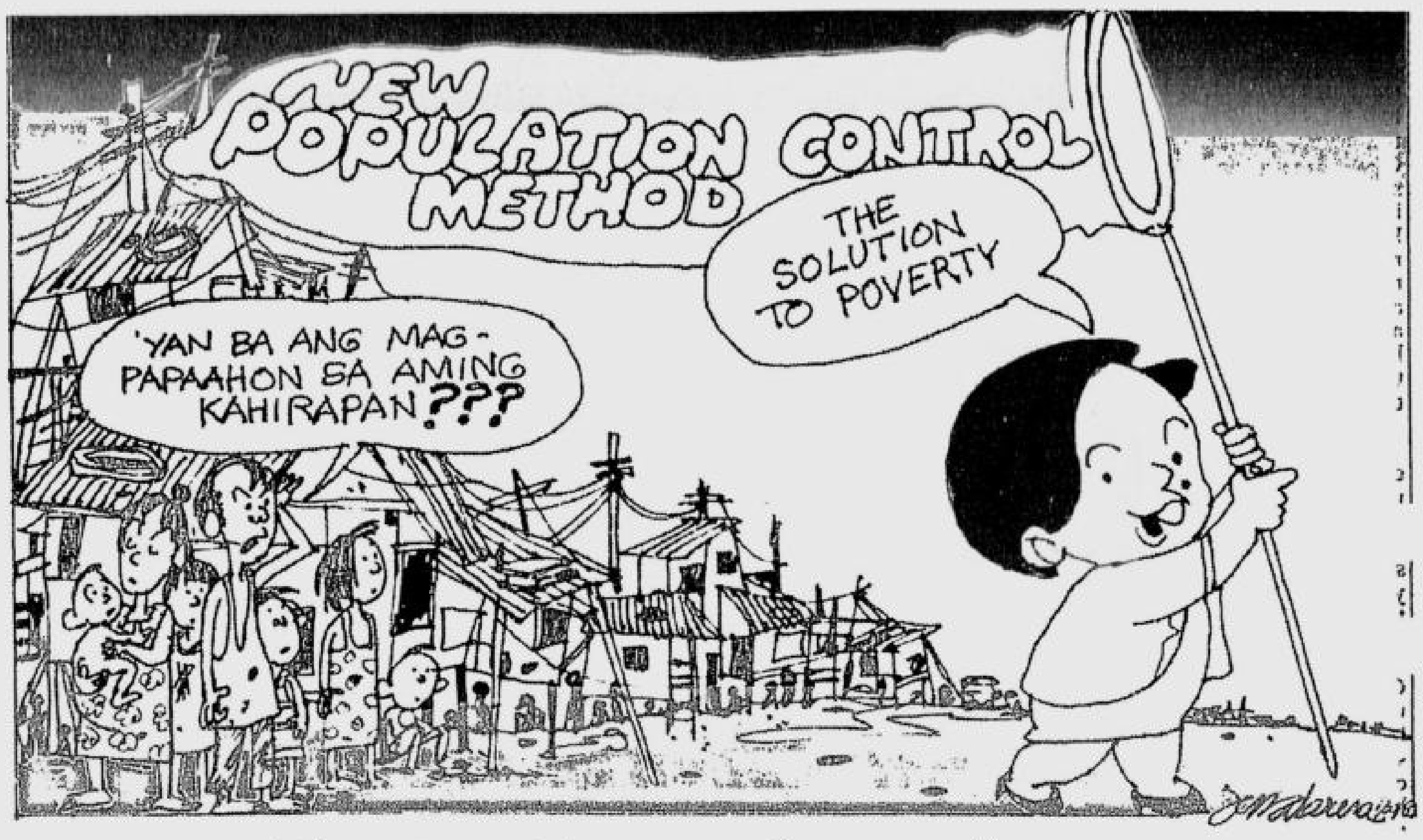
Thus, for the fourth time in less than 70 years, the country is once again devoting its fickle attention to the non-urgent issue of Charter change. Some hundred years after the first national elections, the country is still obsessing about fairness (and in many parts of the archipelago still not getting it).

In the meantime, we are being left behind. While we are mired in the endless debate over the status of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Hong Kong's Chek Lap Kok airport (a truly world-class facility that opened in 1997) is already adding a new wing. While we discuss the pros and cons of a railway system to connect Central Luzon to Metro Manila or another one to criss-cross Mindanao, China has already launched the world's fastest trains. And so on, ad nauseam.

We do not mean to say that economic wellbeing is the only gauge of a viable, vibrant nation. We only mean to point out that no republic can be strong if the best talents, the bulk of airtime and newsprint, the energies of millions, are sucked into the black hole of politics.

The time between the first President Macapagal and the second tells a heartbreaking story. Forty years ago, we were the second strongest economy in Asia. Today we are an also-ran. The catastrophe is explained in large part by the insidious impact of the Marcos dictatorship. During those dark years, we did not only misuse billions of dollars (something we could not afford but for which we continue to pay); we became a thoroughly political people. That is to say, we learned to play politics and, eventually, to substitute politics for performance. While the region's dragons stretched their wings and the tigers flexed their muscles, we chased after our own tail.

In this sense, President Macapagal-Arroyo's Rizal Day definition of the legacy she wants to leave behind—economic recovery, a less corrupt government, clean elections in 2004—are laudable but extremely short term. That this is all she is gunning for is a measure of how low our standards have fallen.


NEW POPULATION CONTROL METHOD
THE SOLUTION TO POVERTY
'YAN BA ANG MAG-PAPAAHON SA AMING KAHIRAPAN???
Jmalarva

The President and tax reforms

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo invited six columnists for lunch at Malacañang last Friday, obviously to clarify lingering doubts about her sincerity in chucking a new term for President and to emphasize her determination to implement reforms in the remaining 17 months of her term.

"If I didn't eschew politics," she said, "I wouldn't be able to accomplish anything. There's just too much politics. Instead of seeing to it that work is done, my time is wasted answering political criticisms."

She lamented how slow things move in the government. A paper that can be processed in a matter of hours takes weeks. It will be recalled that reducing red tape was one of the promises she had made. That has remained a promise, a goal devoutly to be wished but still unfulfilled. Now that the President has time to concentrate on cutting red tape, things will hopefully move faster.

Did she decide not to run in 2004 all of a sudden?

"Nooo," she replied. "I have been thinking about it a long time, in fact, have decided against it long before." She just waited for the best time to announce it, she said.

Obviously, she didn't relish a long expensive campaign for the presidency. "I've been fortunate to become President without undergoing an expensive campaign," she said. "That's enough for me."

She is confident that her reforms will be in place by the time she leaves Malacañang. The economy is already moving up. One of her fondest wishes is clean elections. That is why she provided the money for the voting machines.

How about absentee voting? Can the results be safeguarded?

Congress and the Comelec should be able to make that foolproof.

Charter change? She did not talk about that. She refused to talk about politics at all. She even refused to answer a question on whether she would appoint Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya chief of staff.

"I won't talk about that until April," she replied.

How about the VAT (value-added tax) on professionals?

"Actually, what I prefer is gross taxation," she said, "but agriculture will suffer."

Why?

She wasn't able to explain why as the conversation shifted to another topic.

* * *

But the presidential preference for gross taxation has plenty of good sense in it. Net income taxation provides many loopholes for leakage. Instead of correct taxes going to the government, the money goes into the pockets of smart accountants who look for those loopholes and manipulate the figures. Deductions are made not because the deductions were actually spent for the particular purposes but simply because they are allowed by law and the implementing rules. But the tax collectors like that because it gives them a lot of discretion. Discretion on their part is what allows taxes due to go up or down. It is naturally profitable for the collector, if not for the government, to reduce the taxes due from any given taxpayer.

But gross taxation provides no discretion to the collector nor the taxpayer. That is why we can expect opposition to a shift to gross taxation, mostly from the rich who earn the most. But it would eliminate all loopholes in our tax system and increase revenues. More important, it will lessen graft and corruption, even if it will also lessen the importance of smart accountants.

Do you know that "cheating" on taxes is actually being taught in law and accountancy schools? Professors split hairs to justify it. It is not "tax evasion" but "tax avoidance," they say, although the dictionary defines both almost identically. They even have the same synonym: "escape" which in this case means escaping the payment of taxes. That, no matter how many times you split a hair, still means evading the payment of taxes. Gross taxation will make many professors and accountants suddenly unimportant.

* * *

While the President is still into tax reform, how about removing the 32 percent cap on income tax rates. That cap was put there because of the lobby by rich businessmen, and also because the legislator themselves will benefit. This means that even if you earn billions of pesos, you pay a maximum of only 32 percent of what you earn as income tax. In the United States, the rich pay as much as 75 percent.

That is why the rich pay much less in income tax in proportion to their incomes as compared to that paid by a fixed income, and low salaried, earners. Because of that mandated maximum, a low-level executive pays the same 32 percent rate on his personal income as do the multi-billionaires like Lucio Tan and Danding Cojuangco.

With the 10 percent VAT on professionals, they will pay almost the same rate as Kapitan Lucio and Don Danding. A movie cameraman, for example, already pays a 20 percent withholding tax. Add the 10 percent VAT and that makes 30 percent, only 2 percent less than the maximum 32 percent the rich pay for their billions.

The show-biz and basketball superstars protesting the VAT are also paying a maximum of only 32 percent on their net incomes which, if you look at the actual figures, are really peanuts in proportion to the millions that they earn. Remove the VAT and the 32 percent cap on the income tax and the government would be able to collect more from them. And it won't need a long-drawn-out debate in Congress either. All that is needed is to delete that short phrase imposing the 32 percent maximum on the income tax.

Perhaps we won't even have to shift to gross taxation as the President prefers. However, more than increasing revenues, a gross tax will, as earlier stated, lessen graft and corruption.

The living and the dead

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW Rolly Kintanar last month in one of the Christmas parties I went to. He looked reasonably happy. We talked a bit about the Nida Blanca case—he had figured as one of the witnesses there. He was convinced, he said, that Philip Medel had committed the murder as Medel had blurted out details during the interrogation that only the murderer could possibly know. It dawned on me then how far Kintanar had gone from his revolutionary days, when he headed the NPA.

I did catch a bit of the old Kintanar however when he asked me at one point how things were in my neighborhood. Surprised, I said it was okay as far as life in this country went, though conditions had deteriorated greatly in our compound. I asked him why. He said he knew for a fact that a crime syndicate was operating in our area and was responsible for the rash of auto theft, robbery, and even murder there. But, he offered, like most things in this country it was not beyond being solved. All that was needed was to make an example of a recalcitrant element or two. I did not know if my jaw fell. I did not bother to ask what he meant by making an example.

This is not to suggest that his murder may be blithely ignored, or scorned, by quoting Biblically that those who live by the sword perish by the sword. I join the chorus of voices condemning the crime and hope the perpetrators are caught and punished. The authorities theorize that it was an NPA hit, a theory that isn't hard to buy. Filemon Lagman was assassinated a couple of years ago with pretty much the same method and madness, the gunmen making sure he would not survive the attack. And making sure there would be no "collateral damage"—which bolsters the NPA theory—though that by no means lessens the gravity of their crime.

Lagman's murder hasn't been solved to this day, and Kintanar's probably won't be so as well. But the suspicions will continue to fall squarely on his former comrades, as the kin of the victims themselves staunchly advance. A monumental irony in Kintanar's and Lagman's case, being felled by the very thing they helped make into what it has become.

If it's true, then I don't know how that group can continue to dare to speak for the oppressed. That is something I've never been able to understand, the logic of terrorism. Its gains have always been patently fleeting and insubstantial while its losses have always been patently deep and lasting.

At the very least, you turn to killing people and every hit will naturally be attributed to you, whether you claim it or not. Jose Ma. Sison says the NPA could not have murdered Kintanar because it normally readily acknowledges its hits for their political, or propaganda, value. But it is hard to see how a group that cannot scuttle the enemy by the force of its truth but has to resort to cold-blooded murder to do it can be expected not to lie through its teeth when it finds it convenient.

More than this, I've yet to see an act of terrorism that did not strengthen the "enemy" in the end. The attack on New York's Twin Towers did not weaken the hawks in America, it strengthened their resolve and gave them the blanket authority to do what they want. The suspicion that Sison's group carried out Kintanar's assassination can only strengthen GMA's hitherto untenable position that the CPP-NPA-NDF is a terrorist group. Which used to be untenable because of the peace talks themselves: You do not compromise with a terrorist group. You do not talk peace with a terrorist group.

That position may remain untenable, but it becomes all the harder to dispute. Certainly, it becomes all the harder to rise with indignation to defend Sison's harassment in the Netherlands, which I was all for doing earlier because of the unsavory precedent it set: If it could be done to Sison, it could be done to others with far less clout but far more principled beliefs. They too could be called terrorists and have their bank accounts frozen, or even impounded. But after Kintanar's assassination—indeed, after government's revelation of more planned assassinations by the NPA, which too is not hard to believe—you find your hand too leaden to rise to defend even the general principle.

What did the murder accomplish? Whatever Kintanar's—and Lagman's—faults, they are lost in the blaze of martyrdom. And truly, it is an abomination to know that Bobi Tiglao and others have become fair game. I have not been a great fan of Bobi and those others for some time, but if their detractors cannot push them back by the force of their own beliefs or truths, then there is no pushing them back at all. Then they would have won, dead or alive, but especially dead. The notion that murder is the best way to settle differences, notwithstanding that those differences are backed up by policies or actions, is anathema to revolution itself.

That finally I cannot understand about terrorism, because in the end it only refutes, indeed damns to very hell, the cause terrorism speaks for. The people who murdered Kintanar may imagine that what they did has given the masses a sense of security, and emboldened them to find their voice amid the stilling of tongues today. If so, they are wrong, dead wrong—even if the dead there is purely metaphorical. All they have done is to bring a chill into the people's hearts. All they have done is to bring a pall of silence into the people's mouths. All they have done is to remind everyone that the cause that drew Kintanar and Lagman and many others like them in the flush of youth to its folds, many of them giving up their lives willingly for it, is gone, replaced by one that confuses strength with coercion, resolve with ruthlessness, life with death.

Who wants to be part of something like that?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

'The family that prays together also recycles'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE FAMILY sharing at the closing rites of the Fourth World Meeting of Families that began at 6 p.m. last Saturday at the Luneta demonstrated to the world the evangelical potential of modern-day communication. Pope John Paul II, unable to travel to Manila for the big event on account of his health and doubtless security concerns, joined the vast Luneta throng by satellite from the Clementine Room of the Vatican in Rome. It is said that the Pope had a special satellite hook-up in his chambers in order to be able to follow the PICC proceedings over the past few days. His round benign face was the center point of attention on giant screens at the Quirino Grandstand, as he responded to the various families from around the world who shared their struggles to live Christian lives. Finally he gave his homily that he began with a hearty *"Mabuhay"* that made the crowd roar with approval.

* * *

The satellite ushering of his televised presence was a far cry from the awesome magnetism of his physical presence, but it was warm enough for the Luneta crowds on that chilly evening. Some wept on seeing him on the screen and many roared "John Paul II, we love you." The Pope looked and sounded stronger than when I saw him at St. Josemaria Escriva's canonization in Rome last Oct. 6, 2002. His voice didn't have the old slur as he admonished Catholic couples around the world to be faithful to their vocation of marriage and make their home, to echo Vatican II, "the first school of sanctity." John Paul recognized the many difficulties besetting Christian marriages today, but he said that so long as the couples remain faithful they have Jesus Christ by their side and they comprise the "domestic Church."

* * *

The Manila Meeting came to a beautiful close with solid food for thought for Christian families, as well as expressions of oneness from various citizens around the world, lovely music by the San Miguel Philharmonic and home-grown singers such as Jamie Rivera and Celeste Legaspi and imported talents and various dance numbers. At the ceremonies' close, exquisite fireworks lit up the Manila skies. Many people came from all over the country prepared for an all-night vigil with blankets, mats and thermoses, until yesterday morning's final Mass. Security at the Luneta and the PICC was very tight, which doubtless discouraged more attendance. But everything was very orderly, thanks to some 10,000 volunteers. The only sour note was the inadequate sound system at the Luneta, which prevented those in the rear from hearing the proceedings. But all in all, the Meeting was a terrific blow for the family. Congrats to the organizers.

* * *

Not only was the Luneta gathering orderly and secure, the premises were also very clean, thanks to the untiring efforts of various groups that have formed the "Ecological Waste Coalition" with the full blessings of Cardinal Sin. Composed of various groups such as Caritas Manila, Greenpeace, Mother Earth Unlimited led by president Sonia Mendoza, Recycling Movement of the Philippines, led by prexy Elsie de Veyra, and Smokey Mountain Resource Recovery Systems, the coalition put up about 100 "recycling stations" at the PICC premises and the Luneta where big garbage bins were clustered and clearly marked "biodegradable," "non-biodegradable" and "paper." Some 150 volunteers in blue T-shirts went around coaxing the crowds to put their wastes into the various bins, and informing them how the wastes can be recycled into utility items by the poor, so they can earn some money. Fr. Benigno Beltran of Tondo, who has a big recycling project among the poor there, also went around the Luneta, campaigning for zero waste.

The coalition's Gloria Asprer told me that the people were very receptive to segregation of wastes and flocked to the recycling stations with their refuse. Elated, the group vowed to continue the campaign at every big event. As Caritas worker Lou Arsenio put it, "This is one way to show that the family that prays together also recycles."

* * *

Speaking of family, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez is back from New York City where she underwent a mastectomy in her right breast at Sloan Kettering Memorial Hospital last New Year's Eve. Her first words were how relieved and happy she was to be home and "ready to carry on the will of God after being given a new lease on life." Cecile also said words cannot express the feeling she had when after opening her eyes from the operation, she saw her husband Sonny and daughter Jilka by her side. She is also grateful for the outpouring of love and support from her "extended family" of friends here and in New York City, where they lived in exile in the Marcos years. "You have no idea how your concern and caring meant so much and nourished us through our crisis," she said.

Doctors found that the Big C has invaded her lymph node, necessitating her undergoing chemotherapy here starting the first week of February. But the good news is that the biopsy of her left breast yielded negative. She could use continued prayers from her friends and admirers. Carry on, Cecile.

* * *

So indomitable is Cecile's will that she was able to travel from Los Angeles to Manila alone two weeks after the operation (lawsuits from Sonny's old enemies at the DENR made him come home after her operation). She's back at her radio show sans one breast but with her humor intact. She relates with a vigorous laugh how Sonny carried to the hospital at her insistence the image of the Virgin of Manaoag, which Gina de Venecia gave her as a parting present, and how they both tried to convince the Afro-American operating room nurse to let her keep the statue in the OR. The nurse said everything has to be sterile in the OR, and Sonny said, perhaps you can sterilize the Virgin; to which Cecile responded, "But she doesn't need to be sterilized, as she is the purest of creatures." Quipped the nurse, "You're cracking me up."

Iraq's neighbors discuss ways of averting war

NEWS ANALYSIS

Scheherezade Faramarzi

ISTANBUL, Turkey—Fearing that war could lead to chaos in the region and undermine their economies, Iraq's neighbors met Thursday to explore ways to convince Saddam Hussein to cooperate with UN inspectors.

Turkey, which hosted the meeting in a former Ottoman palace overlooking the Bosporus, proposed the governments call on Iraq to prove to the United Nations that it no longer holds weapons of mass destruction.

US officials hoped the meeting—which brought together foreign ministers from Turkey, Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan—would also signal Saddam that the best course would be for him to go into exile and spare his country and the region a devastating conflict.

However, Turkish officials said talk of Saddam leaving was not on the agenda.

"We only have one item on the agenda and that is how to help Iraq avoid a military strike," said Egypt's assistant foreign minister, Mahmoud Mubarak. He said the delegates would ask Iraq to comply with UN disarmament resolutions and the inspectors "to do their work in an honest and impartial way."

All the countries present except Jordan and Iran were part of the 1991 Gulf War coalition which drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Kuwait, which is hosting a large number of US troops preparing for a possible war, was not invited.

"The conference wants to offer advice to Iraq, and Kuwait has no intention to advise a country it has no ties with," said Massouma al-Mubarak, a political science professor at Kuwait University.

Although Kuwait's government has expressed hope the Iraq crisis can be resolved peacefully, most Kuwaitis would be euphoric if Saddam's government collapsed.

It was unclear, however, what leverage the participants would have with the Iraqi leadership. Each has its own reasons for wanting to avert war, and each faces unique pressures both from its own population and from its allies.

> Although exile for Saddam was supposedly not on the agenda, all the participants realize this would be the best way out of the crisis for all concerned

Turkey, for example, is Nato's only Muslim member and has longtime defense ties with the United States. Washington has asked Turkey to allow US troops on its soil for possible military action, but polls show the population is overwhelmingly opposed to armed conflict.

Some analysts believed the real purpose of the conference was not to find a new formula for averting war but to convince their own populations that they had exhausted all possibilities for peace.

For all six, however, the stakes are high.

The Saudis fear that the overthrow of Saddam's Baath Party administration would strengthen Iraq's majority Shiite Muslim community. That could lead to close ties between Shiites in Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia to the detriment of the ruling House of Saud.

Iran, on the other hand, fears that Saddam would be replaced by a strongly pro-American government. Both Iran and Turkey would like assurances from the other than each would not try to exploit the chaos of war by moving troops into border areas of Iraq.

Jordan, a key US ally in the Middle East, maintains close business ties with Iraq and fears that a long war would destroy its economy.

Turkey worries that a post-Saddam government could grant greater powers to Iraq's minority Kurds. That in turn could lead to similar demands for greater power by Turkey's own Kurdish population.

Syria and Egypt also fear that the end of the Baathist regime in Baghdad might undermine their own governments, which have been criticized for their authoritarian ways.

"The meeting is to maintain the status quo and if a change has to occur in Baghdad, they hope it would be as minimum as possible," Iraqi analyst Ghassan Atiyyah said by telephone from London.

He said leaders of Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia are most worried about their own survival.

A war "will be horrifying," Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher told NTV television. "There will be great instability in the region. The Arab world's hatred will grow. We will also see negative results in terms of economy in every Arab country."

Although exile for Saddam was supposedly not on the agenda, Attiyah said all the participants realize this would be the best way out of the crisis for all concerned.

"This way there will be minimum change in the status quo. The situation will remain the same," he said. "Basically a Baathist regime continues to exist minus Saddam, with Sunnis in power; minimum rights to Kurds."

AP

End gender discrimination in the priesthood

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

WHO washed the dishes at the Last Supper?

The Gospels are quite silent on this matter, but in the patriarchal society of the first century, it is quite likely that women performed this, and other humble tasks, as they still do in the patriarchal societies of the 21st century, and wherever women are mothers and caregivers to human families. It may seem like a trivial point, even impious, but there is a sad, historical fact of wider significance to which it points.

The reality is that women, even in this day and age, are still second-class subjects within the Catholic Church. They cannot be priests, bishops or cardinals, even though in secular society, they can already be mayors, senators and presidents. This fact was painfully obvious in the recent World Meeting of Families in Manila, where each of the hundreds of official VIPs (priests, bishops and cardinals) was a male and too frequently Italian.

It is ironic that Filipino women vastly outnumber Filipino men in Sunday Masses, and greatly exceed them in moral rectitude and loyal service to the church, (if truth be told). Yet, all the clerical skirts in the hierarchy are worn by men, and the vestments of power are never fitted to the lovely shapes of a woman.

They may knead and bake it, with their ardor and their faith, but they may not turn bread into the flesh of God, or wine into His blood, in the daily Eucharistic miracle that imitates that long-ago last meal between Christ and His all-male apostles.

It is not that women are disrespected, marginalized or oppressed within the faith. They are the mortar and bricks of its edifice and the stuff of its greatest emotions. Marian devotion within the church is fanatical, even among men. Avidly abetted by some clergy, there is an honest-to-God movement to make a theological amendment and declare Mama Mary to be a goddess. Moreover, the only time that papal infallibility, that nuclear bomb of doctrinal Catholic authority, has ever been actually used, is in the matter of a woman. It is the Catholic Church's allegedly infallible teaching that of all the human mortals ever born or created, only one, the mother of Jesus, was assumed into heaven without dying. This is the infallible doctrine of the Assumption of Mary: that she never died!

So why can't women become priests in this day and age? "Tradition!" the bearded old men cry. "Jesus didn't ordain any women!"

But I don't think people buy it. The faithful know there is no real reason why women cannot now become priests. It even makes practical, good sense, given how few men are entering the priesthood. Vocations are drying up everywhere and the periodic calls to pray for more seem to be ignored both above and below among the tribes of Adam. Most people really do believe that it is time to allow women into the priesthood. Times have simply changed.

The crisis that has shaken the Church to its roots this past year, involving the cover-up by bishops of sexual abuse of young men, women and children by clergymen, could have been averted, I believe, if the hierarchy were not such an exclusive old boys club. Perhaps this is also a prejudice, but I think that with their natural instincts of maternal protectiveness and nurturing, women priests would not have allowed the perverted depravities perpetrated on innocents that went on for as long, and for the cover-up of which, the Church must now pay dearly in legal costs and a loss in moral authority.

Of course, as a human institution, the Church is subject to history, to the prevailing customs, habits and destinies of the empires and societies in which she lived. Change is a thing difficult to undertake, for an institution claiming to be God's one true church on earth, with a leader that can make infallible teachings. Changelessness has become treasured by the Church as a sign of the ageless perfection of its teachings, beliefs and practices. In this ancient vanity of self-proclaimed divinity, the Roman Catholic Church is no different than other exclusive, organized religions, like Islam.

Monarchic, patriarchal, feudal and dogmatic, the institutional Catholic Church has lumbered through the last few centuries unable to come to terms with such radicalisms as democracy, religious pluralism and gender equality. The First Vatican Council of 1870, convened by Pope Pius IX (Pio Nono), was notoriously anti-democratic, condemning virtually every civil liberty of constitutional democracy that we take for granted. That reactionary trend was not corrected until the Second Vatican Council (1964) of Pope John XXIII ("the good Pope"), which made ecumenism a watchword and religious tolerance by the church, a real possibility.

But the greatest recent step forward, was taken in the year 2000 by Pope John Paul II, when he made his historic apologies to the Jews for two millennia of violent anti-Semitism right up to World War II's Holocaust, and beyond; to the Muslims for the depredations of the Crusades; and to women burned as witches and owners of free conscience tortured as heretics, for the Inquisition and its barbarities; and to Galileo, for being right about the sun and the stars after all.

This supreme act of humility and public contrition on the part of the Roman pontiff proved to all that the Catholic Church can regenerate and even reinvent itself. Along that road it has a long way to go. In particular, the Church has yet to embrace democracy in practice as well as in theory. It can start by outlawing gender discrimination in the priesthood, perhaps in a Third Vatican Council.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Positive survey news

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

BAD news sells, good news does not.

From the point of view of Ernesta Ballasteros of Parañaque City, that's the principle that guides the INQUIRER in deciding what news should appear on the front page and what should be relegated to the inside pages.

At the center of the reader's complaint is the November 2002 survey conducted by the Social Weather Stations on the Filipinos' thoughts about 2003. The poll showed, among other results, that 95 percent of the respondents have high hopes for the new year. The rest anticipate it with fear.

On the question of whether they are proud to be Filipinos, 68 percent said they were "very proud," 19 percent were "quite proud," 6 percent were not "very proud," and 7 percent did not express any pride for their citizenship.

The reader expressed disappointment over the INQUIRER's failure to highlight the SWS survey in its reports. She wrote: "How come you did not give this survey report the same kind of publicity and attention you did last year when you reported on the front page and in big bold headlines that 19 percent of Filipinos are dissatisfied with the country and want to migrate to other countries?

"When the survey report is negative or shows the bad side of our country, you put it on the front page, but when it is good for our country, you do not give it a similar treatment and hide it so other readers do not get to read it. I am about to believe that you purposely highlight the bad news to get the attention of the public and so they will buy your newspaper.

"I am sure our country is not as bad as you always picture it on your front page. There are also good things about us that deserve to be published. I think your newspaper is partly responsible why other countries look down on us. Since you are the most widely read newspaper, they tend to rely on you for information about our country, and what they read are all the bad things about us."

Treatment

I am impressed by the reader's memory. Her recollection of last year's news report on 19 percent of Filipinos wanting to give up on the country and settling elsewhere in the world is right on the button.

On June 26, 2002, the INQUIRER's banner read "19% of Pinoys want to leave, say RP hopeless." The news stemmed from the March-April 2002 survey of Pulse Asia. By uncanny coincidence, as if to underscore the gravity of that finding, beside the headline was the photo of a US commercial airplane that landed at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport carrying 63 Filipino deportees from the United States.

As expected, that headline became grist for comments by the publicity-hungry politicians and was discussed at length in several radio and television programs. The news came at about the same time that the terrorist activities of the Abu Sayyaf bandits were making the rounds of international news agencies.

The positive SWS survey results cited by the reader, however, did not get a similar treatment. It came out as ordinary news on Page A6 of the Jan. 17 issue with the heading "Half of Pinoys poor but upbeat on 2003."

I share the reader's comment that the SWS survey on the Filipinos' outlook on 2003 and their sense of national pride should have been given front-page treatment. It had strong news value that justified catching the readers' attention first thing in the morning when they pick up their newspaper. Not to mention the fact that it could have given the public a much-needed break from the unpleasant and depressing stories that dominated that week.

Overlooked

When informed about the reader's complaint, the editor in chief readily admitted that the SWS survey results deserved the front page, not the inside page, of the INQUIRER. The readers have a right to know the thoughts of the rest of their countrymen about the coming year. The survey is like a sequel to the March-April 2002 poll on the Filipinos' sense of national pride.

She conceded that the underplaying of the survey findings may have created the impression to some of the readers that the newspaper gives priority to bad or negative news in order to grab the readers' attention.

So how come the SWS survey findings got stuck in the bowels of the newspaper?

A review of the events preceding the publication of the Jan. 17 issue of the INQUIRER showed that the survey results were not included in the list of major stories submitted to the editors for discussion at their news conference. The list contains summaries of reports filed by the reporters and correspondents on the events that happened at their beats or assignment areas.

During the story conference, the editors evaluate the reports and discuss what stories should be placed on the front page and what should be assigned to the other sections of the newspaper. News that has national significance, such as policy statements of the President or new tax measures, get priority on the front page. News about natural or man-made calamities that resulted in numerous deaths or injuries is accorded a similar treatment.

Regrets

Four news reports made the front page of the INQUIRER's Jan. 17 issue, namely, the announcement of El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde that he will not allow politicians who are not members of his religious group to appear at their religious gatherings, President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to adopt a hands-off policy on moves to amend the Constitution, the exchange of charges on the Impsa contract by former Presidents Estrada and Ramos, and the order of a US court for Sen. Panfilo Lacson to pay the $3-million judgment against him in connection with a failed handcuff deal.

Since the SWS survey was not in the lineup of the major stories for that issue, it lost the opportunity to get prime billing it rightfully deserved and wound up instead on Page A6. Something went wrong somewhere in the preparation of the list of stories.

On hindsight, the editor in chief said that given a choice between Velarde's anti-politician announcement and the survey results, she would have chosen the latter to be the banner story for that day. In terms of news value, the survey is superior to the Velarde news.

She emphasized that there was no malice involved in the less than prominent treatment given to the positive survey results. It was a simple case of inadvertence. Or an honest mistake.

The INQUIRER begs the indulgence of the readers if they got the impression that it deliberately relegated the subject news to the inside pages of the newspaper.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Harnessing the power of the wind

THIS concerns the letter of Paul Mortel titled "Windmills on his mind," which appeared in your broadsheet last Jan. 21.

We in the PNOC- Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) share the letter writer's vision of realizing energy self-reliance and self-sufficiency for the Philippines. As a government firm tasked to develop indigenous energy resources to reduce the country's dependence on imported fuels, the PNOC-EDC has put up four geothermal steamfields—two in Visayas and one each in Luzon and Mindanao—which have been contributing significantly to the reduction of our foreign oil bill.

Mortel and the rest of the Filipinos would be happier to receive another piece of good news: the PNOC-EDC is currently embarking on wind energy development in Northern Luzon. The project is located in Burgos, Ilocos Norte where we hope to initially harness 42 megawatts of wind power.

The selection of the project site was based on a study conducted by the US New Renewable Energy Laboratory, which located the highest wind speeds in the country to be in the Burgos-Pagudpud area of Ilocos Norte. The country's potential capacity for wind energy is estimated to be about 70,000 MW, according to the Wind Energy Resources Atlas of the Philippines.

There are many positive things going for wind energy. For one, it is a cheap but reliable energy option because it generates power from a source that is free and will never run out. For another, it is a source of clean, non-polluting electricity since it does not produce effluents that contribute to global warming.

The PNOC-EDC is pursuing the wind project as part of the Department of Energy's thrust of introducing clean and renewable energy into the national power mix. This project, which will hopefully be the first commercial wind farm in the country and in Southeast Asia, is expected to be put on stream in July 2005.

The company has secured all necessary endorsement and environmental permits and is now bidding out the major contracts for the project, such as the engineering procurement and construction of a 42-MW wind farm and technical consultancy services. The Japanese government pledged in February 2002 to finance the project through the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

Meanwhile, let me take this opportunity to invite Mortel and your readers to visit our website at www.energy.com.ph for more information about this wind energy project and the PNOC-EDC's other energy initiatives.

—LEONARDO M. OTE,
division manager,
environmental and external
relations, PNOC Energy
Development Corp., PNOC Energy
Companies Bldg., Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City

AN APPEAL TO OUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN FOR THE EARLY PASSAGE OF THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING ACT AMENDMENTS

Millions of OFWs and their dependents are counting on you.

WE, LEADERS OF THE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT PROVIDERS BOTH IN THE LANDBASED AND MARITIME INDUSTRY, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF MILLIONS OF OUR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS, EARNESTLY APPEAL TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FOR THE URGENT PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING ACT.

THE EXPEDITIOUS AND TIMELY REMITTANCES FROM OUR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS TO THEIR FAMILIES AND BENEFICIARIES WILL BE SEVERELY AFFECTED BY UNDUE DELAYS IF THESE AMENDMENTS ARE NOT PASSED BY FEBRUARY 12, 2003.

OUR FOREIGN EMPLOYERS AND PRINCIPALS ABROAD WHO ARE EMPLOYING MILLIONS OF FILIPINOS OVERSEAS WILL BE BURDENED BY THE POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL COSTS AND DELAYS IN THEIR REMITTANCE TO US, THEIR PHILIPPINE PARTNERS. IN TURN, THIS WILL REDUCE OUR COMPETITIVENESS IN THE GLOBAL MARKET AND THE LOSS OF THOUSANDS OF MUCH-NEEDED JOBS FOR FILIPINOS. THIS WILL SERIOUSLY IMPAIR OUR ABILITY TO GENERATE US$ 8 BILLION IN ANNUAL OFW REMITTANCES.

YOUR URGENT ACTION ON THIS BILL WILL BE A CLEAR MANIFESTATION OF YOUR SUPPORT AND CONCERN FOR THE 7 MILLION OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AND THE MILLIONS MORE OF THEIR DEPENDENTS AND CHILDREN. OUR DOLLAR-EARNING OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT PROVIDERS ARE ALSO BOUND TO SUFFER.

WE THEREFORE URGE OUR HONORABLE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED CONCERN FOR THE OVERSEAS WORKERS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT PROVIDERS.

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Association of Service Contractors of the Philippines (ASCOP)

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Renato E. Cristobal
MR. RENE CRISTOBAL
Filipino Association for Mariner's Employment (FAME)

THIS AD IS JOINTLY PAID FOR BY THE ORGANIZATIONS STATED ABOVE

VP clarifies defense chief's letter

THIS is a brief response to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes' letter published in the INQUIRER on Jan. 23, titled "Misplaced apprehension over presence of US troops."

1. His reference to only 199 American soldiers doing socio-economic projects seems negated by the published reports of 272 US forces who arrived on Jan. 25 for the month-long balance of Piston Exercises. Even more confusing is the reported refusal of Foreign Undersecretary Valdez "to say exactly how many US troops were joining this year's war games," although confirming "an exercise in their numbers." (PDI, 1/24/03, P. 17)

2. I am glad that Reyes stated that any decision to go to war in Iraq is a separate decision to be made by Congress, and that any decision to approve any joint RP-US military activities has no reference to the MLSA. But the reverse is true. The basis for the MLSA is the Visiting Forces Agreement which in turn is the basis for joint military RP-US exercises. The MLSA has not been ratified by the Senate, and the decision of the parties is not merely best efforts but mandatory when stricter standards for satisfying a request from one party is made, as embodied in Section 1, Paragraph 5 of the MLSA agreement. The applicability of the MLSA says that it is based also on the Mutual Defense Treaty— but this is hardly applicable because the premise of the Mutual Defense Treaty is an external attack on either the United States or the Philippines. However the imminent challenge that we face is an attack on Iraq. The MLSA does not mention the United Nations, although we are bound, as a sovereign nation, to do what it recommends in the national interest within our means.

3. The statement that the war in Iraq may devastate our economy is not speculation but a studied forecast by economists and leaders and plain citizens across the globe. We have almost a million overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East. We pray for their safety and their families here rely heavily on their valued remittances. The price of crude will increase, foreign exchange will escalate and we will suffer the loss of potential travelers and tourists—all certainly will gravely affect us. The Asian Wall Street Journal of Jan. 24 cites the views of Martin Baily, an economist of the Washington-based Institute for Economics and former adviser of President Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers regarding the economic perils of war in Europe and Asia.

Thank you for supporting my call for a national day of prayer to avert war.

—VICE PRESIDENT TEOFISTO T.
GUINGONA JR.

No such employee in SMC

WE wish to inform you that San Miguel Corp. has no employee by the name of Ricardo Golpeo, either in its current roster or in the past. Neither is anybody by that name reporting to the company, contrary to an item in the Jan. 18, column of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan.

In the interest of accuracy, we hope that you will publish this rectification.

—FRANCIS H. JARDELEZA,
corporate secretary
and general counsel,
San Miguel Corp.,
40 San Miguel Avenue,
Mandaluyong City

Cartimar rebuts charges made by tenant

ANENT the article "End of days now looms for Cartimar" last Jan. 11.

In the interest of truth and fairness, please allow me to clarify several issues that were raised against me and Cartimar by Johnny Badiola, president of the Cartimar Tenants and Neighborhood Association Inc.

1. "(Cartimar) is requiring (tenants) to pay an advance and deposit equivalent to five months' rent."

As stipulated in the lease contract, Cartimar has long been implementing the "two months deposit, one month advance" policy. This year, the management opted to strictly collect the "deposit" fees specifically from lessees who are new and those renewing their contracts to minimize any delinquency in payments and at the same time, cover whatever indemnities may arise due to delayed payment of rental fees.

2. "Tenants were forced to pay an additional 15 percent of the monthly electric bill."

Cartimar cannot arbitrarily impose or charge tenants any additional charges over and above what they have consumed. Badiola knows that it is illegal to overcharge. However, it is stipulated in the contract that monthly electrical consumptions of tenants will be billed separately since Cartimar has been allowed to do so by the Energy Regulatory Board.

3. "(Cartimar charges) P620 for every meter that tenants' goods occupy beyond the stall's perimeter."

As a matter of goodwill, we allow our tenants to extend their selling areas to some reasonable degree. In cases where our tenants request to extend their areas during the peak seasons, we only charge a minimum of P5 a meter on a daily basis. Availing of additional space is an option and not mandatory. I am not aware where the P620 extra charge came from.

I find it unfair that Christian Esguerra filed the story without probing the real issues. I find the reactions of Badiola exaggerated, baseless and malicious. According to our records, he has unpaid rentals equivalent to 24 months, hence his rather loose remarks.

As an administrator, I am expected to enforce the provisions of the lease contracts without fear or favor.

—JAIME P. GENOTA,
general manager,
Cartimar Shopping Center,
Ernesto Oppen Inc., Cartimar
Administration Bldg., Pasay City

Violence against gay/lesbian family members is a valid issue

THIS refers to the article titled "Gays, lesbians left out in world meet" last Jan. 18. The Lesbian Advocates Philippines (LeAP) Inc. did not in any way lead the Catholic Church to believe that lesbians and gays wish to join the World Meeting of Families. We do not want to join the conference. Our foremost desire is simple: that the World Meeting of Families would stay true to its mandate and discuss the family and family members.

We wish for it to discuss the issue of domestic violence against gay and lesbian family members because this is a family issue that requires attention.

We do not believe that joining the conference is the solution, for it may only be an exercise in futility. The conference organizers refuse to touch gay and lesbian issues though these are issues that beset family members. Not talking about them does not make these issues go away; it does not mean the violence is not happening. The silence of the Catholic Church only helps to perpetuate the violence and further victimize the victims.

When the organizers say the concerns of the gays and lesbians are not important to the Catholic Church, we ask in turn, where is the love, understanding and acceptance that Jesus Christ, as founder of Christianity has taught?

With the culmination of the World Meeting of Families, would it merely have preserved the status quo—one where domestic violence goes unchecked? In which case, we believe the conference has failed.

Truly, the family is under attack.

We ask the conference organizers: Can they in all honesty say they are not the perpetrators?

—GING CRISTOBAL,
Lesbian Advocates
Philippines (LeAP!) Inc.,
58-E Kamias Rd., Quezon City

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Virus attack cripples Internet traffic

WASHINGTON—A fast-spreading, virus-like infection has dramatically slowed Internet traffic, overwhelming the world's digital pipelines and interfering with web browsing and e-mail delivery.

Sites monitoring the health of the Internet on Saturday reported detecting at least 39,000 infected computers, which transmitted floods of spurious signals disrupting hundreds of thousands of other systems worldwide. Monitors reported significant slowdowns, although recovery efforts appeared to be succeeding.

Millions of Internet users in South Korea were stranded when computers at Korea Telecom Freetel and SK Telecom failed. Service was restored but remained slow, officials said. In Japan, NHK television reported heavy data traffic swamped some of the country's Internet connections, and Finnish phone company TeliaSonera reported some problems.

Bank of America Corp., one of America's largest banks, said many customers could not withdraw money from its 13,000 ATM machines because of technical problems caused by the attack. A spokesperson, Lisa Gagnon, said the bank restored service to nearly all ATMs by late Saturday afternoon and that customers' money and personal information had not been at risk.

Customers of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Toronto also were unable to withdraw money using ATM machines for part of Saturday, said Rick Broadhead, a technology analyst who was among those unable to get to his cash. Broadhead said a sign in one bank lobby blamed the problem on an unspecified "technical glitch." A bank spokesperson said technicians shut down part of its ATM network to make repairs but that service was restored later in the day.

Not debilitating

"It's not debilitating," said Howard Schmidt, President George W. Bush's No. 2 cybersecurity adviser. "Everybody seems to be getting it under control."

Schmidt said the FBI's cybersecurity unit and experts at the federally funded CERT Coordination Center were monitoring the attack and offering technical advice to computer administrators on how to protect against it.

But Rick Miller, a spokesperson for Microsoft Corp., confirmed that Internet congestion was interfering with administrators trying to download the crucial software patch that Microsoft made available to protect vulnerable computers.

The same congestion also completely prevented consumers from contacting Microsoft over the Internet to unlock the anti-piracy features of its latest products, including the Windows XP and Office XP software packages.

The virus-like attack, which began about 0530 GMT Saturday, sought out vulnerable computers on the Internet to infect using a known flaw in popular database software from Microsoft Corp. called "SQL Server 2000." The attacking software was scanning for victim computers so randomly and so aggressively, sending out thousands of probes a second, that it saturated many Internet data pipelines.

Most home users did not need to take any protective measures.

SQ hell

The FBI was searching for the origin of the attack, which experts variously dubbed "sapphire," "slammer" or "SQ hell." Some security researchers noted that software unleashed in Saturday's attack bore striking resemblance to blueprints for computer code published weeks ago on a Chinese hacking website by a virus author known as "Lion." An FBI spokesperson said he couldn't confirm that.

Tracing the attack, which appeared to strike first in the United States, might be impossible because it used a transmission method that made it unusually easy to falsify its digital trail, experts said. Mysterious scans that could have been a precursor to Saturday's attack have been detected by Internet sensors since last year, searching out vulnerable computers.

"Scanning has been going on for months and months," said Chris Wysopal of AtStake Inc., a security firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts "This person probably launched this attack at hundreds of machines all at once."

The attack resembled the "Code Red" virus that struck the Internet during the summer of 2001.

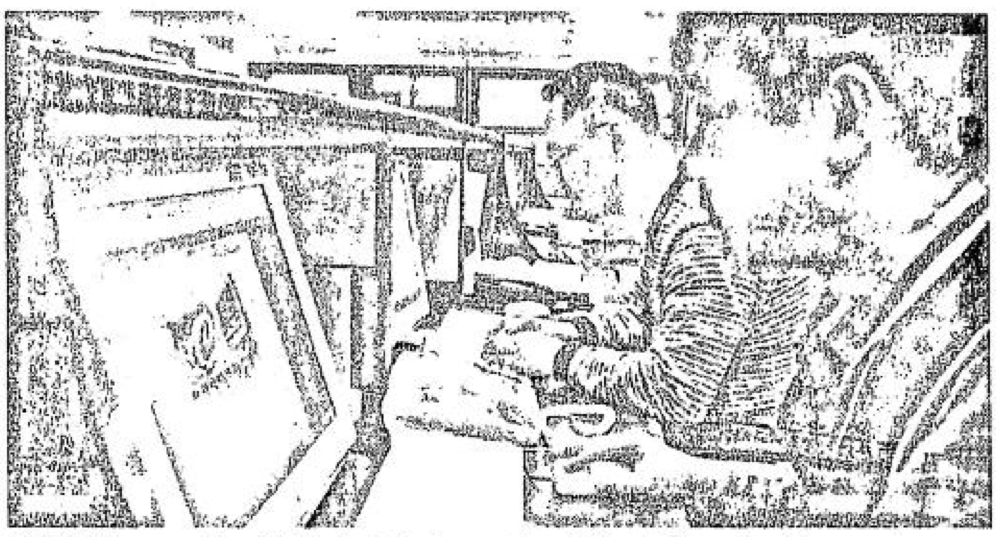
"This is like Code Red all over again," said Marc Maiffret, an executive with eEye Digital Security, whose engineers were among the earliest to study samples of the attack software. "The sheer number of attacks is eating up so much bandwidth that normal operations can't take place."

Schmidt said disruption within the US government was minimal, partly because the attack occurred early on a weekend. The departments of state, agriculture, commerce and some units of the defense department appeared hardest hit among federal agencies, according to Matrix NetSystems Inc., a monitoring firm in Austin, Texas.

The world's largest Internet provider, America Online, reported no problems. "We remain on alert and continue to closely monitor this situation," spokesperson Nicholas Graham said.

Software flaw

The attack sought to exploit a software flaw discovered by researchers in July 2002 that permits hackers to seize control of corporate database servers. Microsoft deemed the flaw to be critical and offered a free repairing patch, but it was impossible to know how many computer administrators applied the fix. *AP*



SOUTH Korean police officials check their computers in Seoul after a virus-like computer infection interrupted Internet services on Sunday. AP

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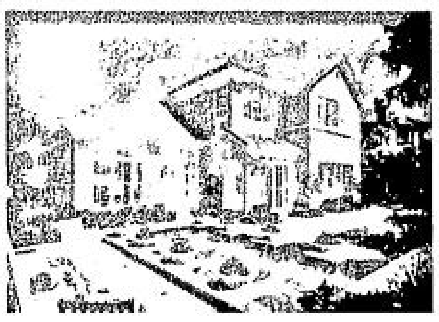

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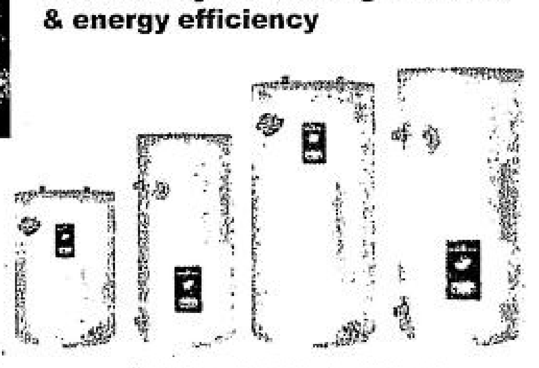

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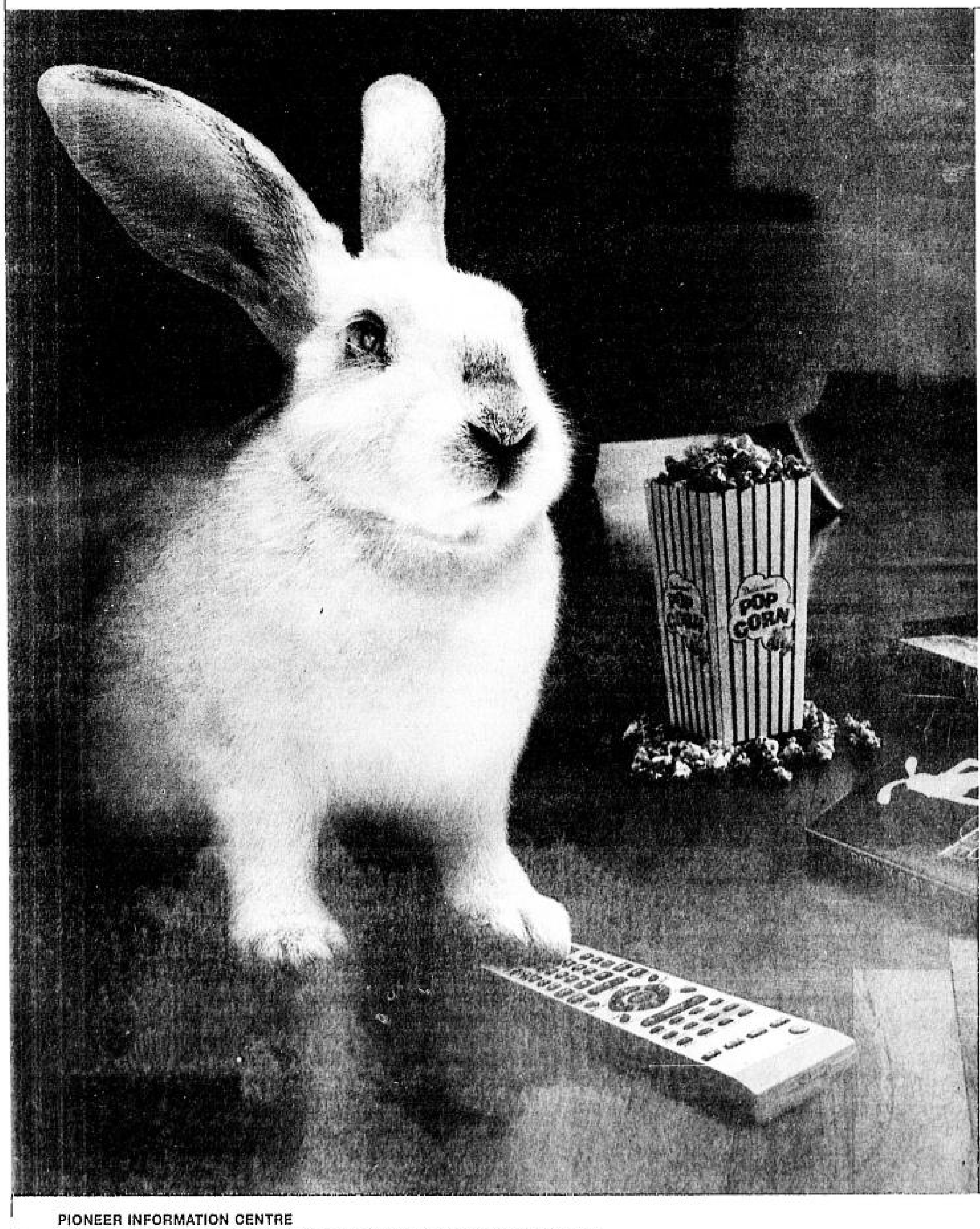

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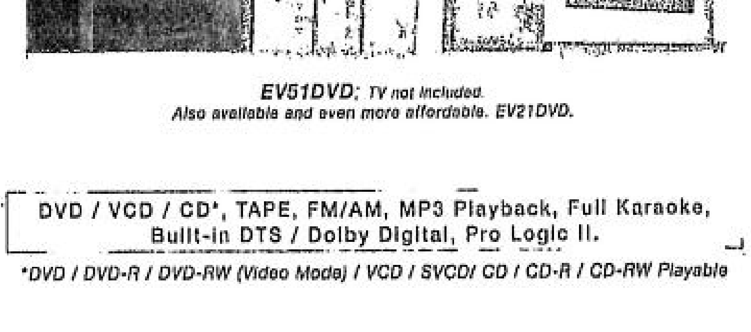

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Israelis move deep into Gaza; 12 killed

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Israeli forces with tanks and helicopters moved deep into Gaza City early Sunday, killing 12 Palestinians in exchanges of fire, a large-scale assault just two days before Israel's election.

It was the highest toll in a single day in Gaza in five months, and the incursion was the deepest into Gaza City in more than two years of fighting. Tanks were seen a kilometer from Palestine Square, which marks the center of the city of about 300,000.

Israeli tanks started entering the city from three directions late Saturday, as helicopter warships fired machine guns at buildings and at crowds of people in the streets, including gunmen, witnesses and security officials said.

"It was one of the Army's biggest operations in the Gaza Strip," Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz told Israeli Army radio.

An Army officer described a night of door-to-door fighting, much of it in residential neighborhoods, against Palestinians firing automatic weapons and anti-tank missiles.

"It started with sporadic opposition, but when they realized that we were entering in a big way they started organizing, and we saw in the course of the night they started to organize themselves in a much more orderly way," he told the radio.

Twelve Palestinians were killed and 51 wounded, eight critically, hospital officials said. It was the bloodiest day in the Gaza Strip since August, when 13 people were killed in an Israeli attack on the southern city of Khan Younis. Casualties were being brought to Gaza's Shifa Hospital in cars and ambulances.

A missile fired by an Israeli helicopter set a huge fire in the Shajaiyeh neighborhood in eastern Gaza City, witnesses said. Firefighters were battling the blaze in the industrial area.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, affiliated with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed that its fighters blew up three Israeli tanks with explosives. The Israeli military denied the claim.

In the West Bank, a donkey loaded with explosives blew up near an Army checkpoint near Bethlehem but caused no casualties, Israeli security officials said. It was not immediately clear if the animal was meant to explode near the troops or if it was transporting a bomb that exploded prematurely.

In the Gaza City incursion, Israeli forces destroyed 14 workshops where they said weapons were made, before withdrawing at daybreak.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, running for reelection, stood to benefit from an upsurge of violence as Tuesday's elections approached. In the past, hardline parties like Sharon's Likud have benefited from spurts of violence, as Israelis seek a tough response.

The Likud and its allies are ahead in the polls, and Sharon is expected to form a new government after the voting, but Likud leaders say they're concerned that they might still not have enough electoral strength to form a stable ruling coalition.

Palestinian Cabinet Minister Saeb Erekat said the overnight incursion was politically motivated.

"What we witnessed in Gaza last night is Sharon's preparation for full reoccupation of Gaza," Erekat told The Associated Press. "We believe he wanted to end the election campaign on this note with more Palestinian blood and destruction."

During the operation, Israeli forces blew up the two-story house of a Hamas militant. The incursion began after 10 p.m. Saturday, with about 35 tanks moving toward the center of Gaza City from three directions, witnesses and security officials said.

Palestinian legislator Ziad Abu Amr said he saw 10 tanks drive through his street. Another resident, Mohammed Tafesh, 29, said electricity was cut in the neighborhood. From mosque loudspeakers across the city, gunmen were called into the streets to wage "holy war" against the Israelis.

Two helicopter gunships fired machine guns toward armed men. In one incident, gunmen fired an anti-tank missile at an Israeli armored vehicle, drawing Israeli tank fire. Tafesh said the gunmen got away.

In Beit Hanoun, a town at the northern edge of the Gaza Strip, witnesses said nine Israeli tanks took up positions in the town center early on Sunday. Palestinians have been firing rockets and mortars from Beit Hanoun at Jewish settlements and nearby Israeli towns in recent days. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

More time needed

LONDON—British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Sunday that UN weapons inspectors should have "whatever time they need" to complete their audit of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction but warned he believed the process should take weeks rather than months. *Reuters*

Plastic bags

BAGHDAD—American and British troops will return home in "plastic bags" should London and Washington invade Iraq, a newspaper owned by President Saddam Hussein's eldest son said Sunday. The United States and Britain say Iraq is hiding mass destruction weapons and that they will disarm the Arab nation by force if necessary. They are assembling the biggest ground, naval and air force in the Gulf since a US-led coalition defeated Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War. *AP*

Crisis talks

SEOUL—Between volleys of abuse, North Korea demanded Washington meet to discuss the nuclear crisis as a South Korean envoy prepared on Sunday to go to Pyongyang and the UN nuclear watchdog considered delaying an emergency meeting. The latest flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at persuading the communist North to renounce its atomic arms ambitions appeared to have given the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency pause in its plans for an emergency session as early as Feb. 3. *Reuters*

Spy plane crashes

SEOUL—A US U-2 spy plane crashed after its pilot ejected near the South Korean capital on Sunday, injuring three people on the ground, the defense ministry said. The aircraft was returning to a US air base in Osan when it crashed into a hillside in Hwasong city, south of Seoul, news agency Yonhap said. *AP*

China-Taiwan airlink

TAIPEI—The first Taiwanese commercial flight to China in more than five decades completed its journey on Sunday, in a step toward ending a ban on direct travel between the two sides split by politics but linked by investment. Chinese and Taiwanese officials waved as the plane taxied down the runway at Shanghai's Pudong Airport before taking off on a gray and windy morning. A traditional Chinese lion dance was performed in celebration. *AP*

Assassinated

KATMANDU—Suspected Maoist rebels shot dead the head of Nepal's anti-Maoist armed police force Sunday along with his wife and bodyguard, officials said. The three were shot at close range as they took a morning walk near their home in Lalitpur on the outskirts of Kathmandu, a home ministry spokesperson said. "The armed police chief Krishna Mohan Shrestha and his security guard assistant inspector Surya Bahadur Regmi died on the spot while the wife of the police chief Nudu Shrestha succumbed to bullet injuries in hospital," he said. *AFP*

Anti-French protests

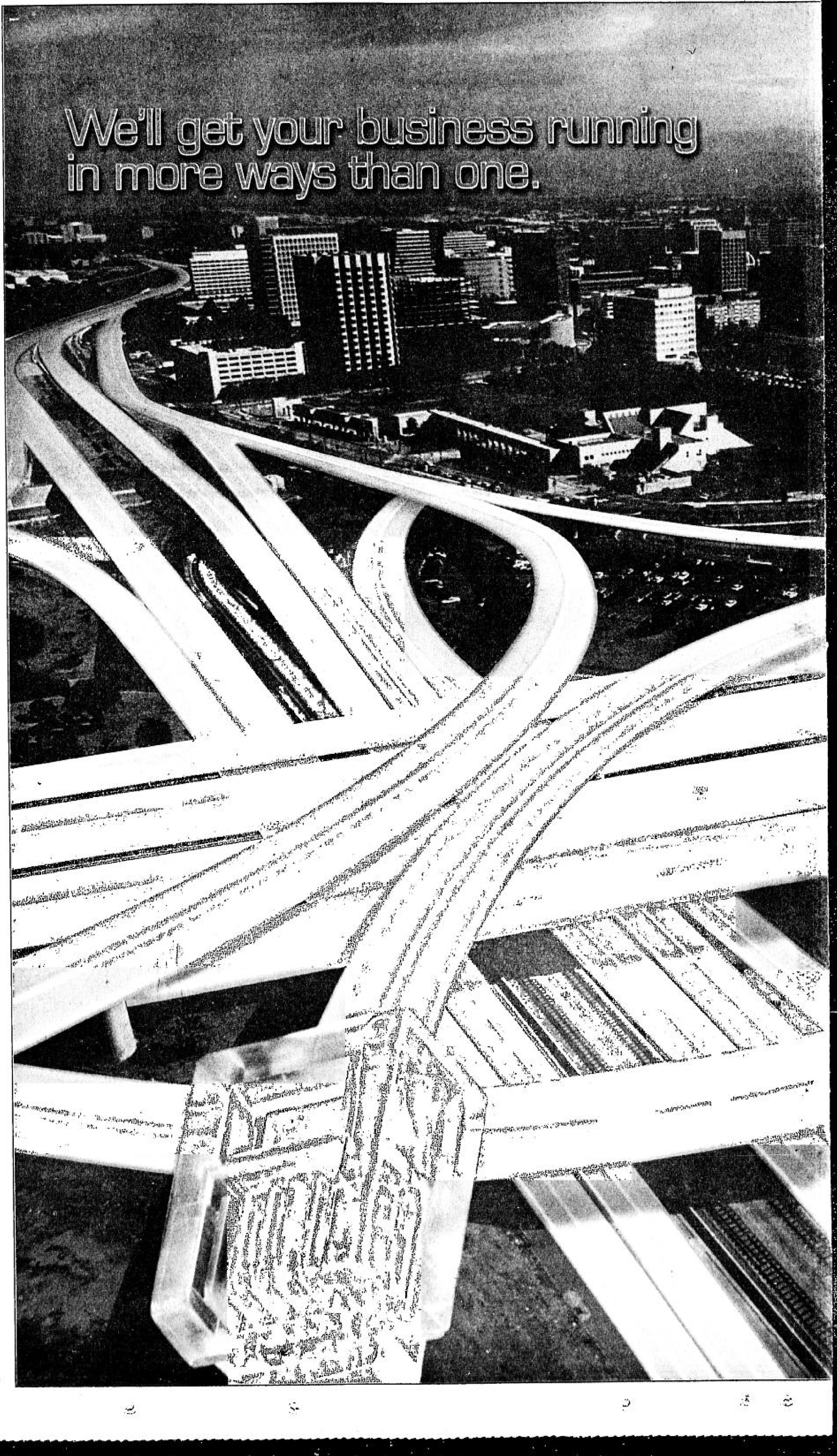
ABIDJAN—French soldiers fired stun grenades as tens of thousands of people surged outside the French embassy on Sunday to protest a peace deal to end Ivory Coast's four-month civil war. Shouting anti-French and pro-US slogans, the protesters, many armed with machetes and sticks, burst through barricades in Abidjan's Plateau district, throwing stones, stools and other wooden objects at the embassy, an AFP correspondent reported. *AFP*

Surprise blitz

BANGKOK—More than 500 demolition workers razed a strip of bars, shops and eateries in Bangkok in a surprise pre-dawn blitz Sunday after a four-year dispute between a landowner and tenants, police said. The wrecking crew arrived at the popular tourist nightlife zone around 3:30 a.m. Sunday and tore down shop stalls and open-air bars, destroying the inventories of dozens of businesses, said police Capt. Ithichoti Chalmongkhol. "It was fast and effective work," he said. "They just showed up and everything was gone within two hours." *Reuters*

Afghan girls

KABUL—Thousands of girls in the Afghan capital have signed up for special winter classes to help catch up on missed schooling after decades of war, and demand has exceeded initial expectations, the United Nations said Sunday. Some 15,000 girls in Kabul have enrolled in two education programs to take place during the winter, when normal schools are closed for a months-long break. "The accelerated learning program is an essential strategy to improve opportunities for children who have fallen behind in their education, and ensures their continued presence in the classroom this year," said Edward Carwardine, a Unicef spokesperson. *AP*



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14 killed in Lanao del Sur clan war

COTABATO CITY—At least 14 people have been reportedly killed, including the husband of the town mayor of Balabagan, Lanao del Sur, in what appeared to be a clan war that started Friday.

The fishing village of Dapdap in Balabagan has turned into a ghost town as the killings continue, according to witnesses.

Followers of Cabilo Ogca Sampiano, husband of Balabagan Mayor Edna Sampiano prevented about 100 people from leaving their homes.

Cabilo had earlier died in the violence.

Councilor Dodong Teves of nearby Parang, Maguindanao said those involved in the three-day armed conflict were members of the Maranaw and Tausug tribes.

"It all started with a fistfight that swelled into a (full) blown violence," Teves, who visited the area, told the Church-run Radio dxMS here yesterday.

Roger Wahid, a Tausug who managed to flee from the conflict, also said 10 of those killed were Tausug and Samal fishermen, while the other fatalities belonged to Sampiano's group of Maranaw gunmen.

But he could not confirm reports that one of those killed was an 8-year-old Tausug girl.

Teves said Sampiano, who maintains a cock farm in Dapdap, was called in to settle a misunderstanding on Friday between Alayon Ansal, a Tausug fisherman, and an unidentified Maranaw.

Wahid, who witnessed the mediation, said it appeared that Sampiano had succeeded in patching up the two, but minutes later, Ansal returned with a handgun and looked for his opponent.

Wahid said Sampiano asked Ansal to turn over his gun.

The latter obliged but his brother, Nasser, advised him against doing it.

"You better shoot him as well," Wahid quoted Nasser as telling his brother.

When Ansal refused to comply, Wahid said Nasser pulled out his .45 cal. pistol and fired at Sampiano.

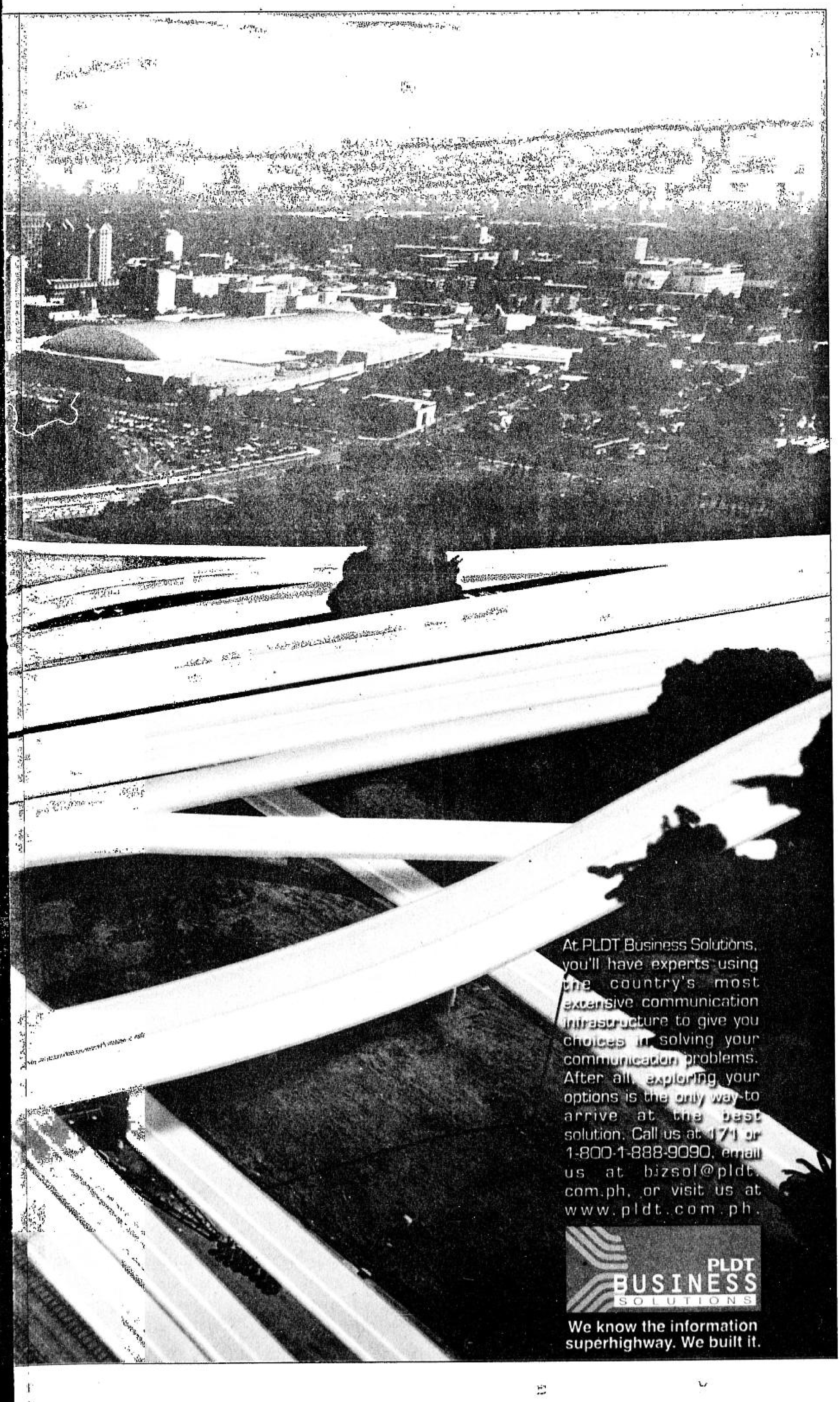
Sampiano's escorts fired back, starting a melee.

Wahid said that when the shooting stopped, he saw six people lying dead, including Sampiano.

"Because of the killing, revenge was the name of the game in town as relatives of warring groups joined in the shooting," he said.

Chief Supt. Akmad Omar, regional chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao could not be reached for comment.

But an Agence France Presse report said regional police have confirmed the 14 deaths and said a peacekeeping team had been deployed in the area. *With an AFP report. Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*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After steel, Iligan farmers harvest abaca

ILIGAN CITY—Higaonon farmers have begun harvesting abaca fibers from a government-backed plantation in Barangay Rogongon here.

The harvest, officials said, marked the start of the city's quest to become a major producer of abaca fiber in the country.

Alice Coronado, head of the Cooperatives Development and Livelihood Office overseeing the project, said the first harvest reached a volume of almost 2,000 kilos of fiber.

The abaca fibers were sold to New Tech Pulp in Balo-i, Lanao del Norte.

Rolando Soong, chair of the Lumad Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, which is composed of 165 Higaonon farmers, reported that they earned more than P40,000 for the fibers, which were bought at P40 per kilo.

Coronado said 25 percent of the earnings would go to the Land Bank of the Philippines, co-sponsor of the project, as part of repayment for the loan granted to the farmers.

She said the harvest was continuing along with the expansion of the plantation site. The field spans about 100 hectares of land.

Mayor Franklin Quijano, who had earlier said the abaca project could help the city's economy get back on its tracks, was overjoyed upon learning that the cooperative has started harvesting.

The abaca production project was implemented only last year with a budget of P30 million.

Its launching came in the heels of the collapse of National Steel Corp., which has so greatly affected city revenues that officials decided to go back to agriculture to boost tax collections and employment.

Quijano said that aside from the abaca production, the city government was preparing to implement a proposed coffee production, which costs P111 million. *Jeffrey P. Maningo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Samar peace council seeks return of Army

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) of Eastern Samar has sought the immediate return of the Army battalion earlier pulled out and sent to Mindanao to fight the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

The request was made in the wake of reports that members of the communist New People's Army (NPA) had intensified their recruitment of minors, their collection of "revolutionary taxes" and their anti-government propaganda drive in the province.

The PPOC, headed by Gov. Clotilde Salazar, passed a resolution during the meeting in Borongan, Eastern Samar, on Jan. 14, asking Gen. Dionisio Santiago, Armed Forces chief of staff, to facilitate the return of the 14th Infantry Battalion. The unit was based in Dolores town in Eastern Samar when it was pulled out in July last year.

If this cannot be done, the 19th IB or the 62nd IB, which was moved from Samar Island to Mindanao last year, should at least be sent back, it said.

Col. Randy Oscar Dauz, deputy commander of the 801st Army Brigade based in Eastern Samar, said the pullout of the battalions greatly affected their campaign against the communist rebels.

The military reported that most of the villages infiltrated by the NPA were in the northern and southern parts of the province.

The Eastern Samar police headed by Senior Supt. Edwin Balongay reported recent sightings of armed men believed to be NPA rebels in different parts of the province.

The armed men were seen this week in Barangay San Andres, Borongan; Barangay Can-ilay, Can-avid; and Barangay Tagasli-an, Maydolong, among other places, the reports said.

Police stations have already set up mobile checkpoints, in coordination with several Army units, the reports said.

Palaweños resist release of 38 Chinese poachers

AT ATTENTION
An American soldier guards a village in Zamboanga as other American military personnel conduct medical and humanitarian mission to Muslims yesterday. Some 280 American soldiers are still in Zamboanga City and Basilan undertaking humanitarian mission. AP

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—For the nth time, officials and residents of Palawan are strongly opposing the release of Chinese poachers detained at the provincial jail here.

They made known their sentiments in reaction to a request of Chinese Embassy officials to the Department of Foreign Affairs for the immediate release of the Chinese poachers before the Chinese New Year on Feb. 1.

"We are ready to initiate mass actions and mobilize against their release," said lawyer Grizelda Mayo-Anda, executive director of the Environmental Legal Assistance Center (Elac).

Anda said the Chinese government had no legal basis for making such request.

"It's the usual bullying by the Chinese government of our government. It does not surprise me that it's being done again because they had succeeded in the past," she added.

Anda said it was a challenge to the local and national government officials and the DFA not to succumb to the pressures of the Chinese government.

"We call on our local and national leaders to write the DFA that this could not happen otherwise the arrangement is unconscionable," she said.

Cases of poaching and illegal fishing using noxious substances in violation of the Fisheries Code were filed against the Chinese before the regional trial court here.

The Chinese have not been arraigned after their lawyer, Zoilo Cruzat, filed a motion to quash the case, contending that the court had no jurisdiction over his clients who were caught in Malampaya, a place that was mentioned once by President Macapagal-Arroyo to be outside Palawan's territorial jurisdiction.

Anda, in behalf of 12 children, filed a motion to intervene as complainants in the case.

Even without the arraignment, she said, the court had already acquired jurisdiction over the Chinese and the motions have to be resolved first.

"They cannot just railroad the process," she lamented.

She said it was now barely a week before Chinese New Year and it was unfair if the court decided on the case immediately because there were also a lot of cases clogging the court dockets.

Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon, who was serving as acting governor while Joel Reyes is on leave, condemned the request made by the Chinese government.

Despite the absence of official notice of the request, Ponce de Leon said, "we are already manifesting our objection to any proposal to terminate the proceedings which are already in court."

The position of the provincial government is to continue and terminate the case with the prosecution of the accused to the full extent of the law and to penalize them as the evidence may warrant, he said.

A resolution will be sent to the national government opposing the release of the Chinese, he added.

Even while the DFA and the National Committee on Illegal Entrants were talking about the issue, Ponce de Leon said the decision of the court should prevail because the case had been submitted to its jurisdiction.

Ponce de Leon also vowed to join NGOs and other concerned residents in a mass action just like what they did on Sept. 27 last year when 122 Chinese were released because the national government entered a plea bargain and settled for a minimal fine of $600,000, which have not been fully paid up to now. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

60 cops deployed to Leyte town with 2 mayors

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—At least 60 policemen have been deployed to Mayorga, Leyte, in the wake of mounting tension between supporters of two politicians both claiming to be the rightful mayor of the town.

Supporters of the unseated mayor, Valente Adolfo, and the court-installed mayor, Zenaida Doria, have been holding separate pickets on the municipal ground for over two weeks now to drum up support for their patrons.

Adolfo was ordered unseated by the Leyte Regional Trial Court on Jan. 7 but has refused to vacate the post after securing a temporary restraining order from the Commission on Elections.

Zenaida, however, has refused to abide by the Comelec order and continues to hold office on the ground floor of the municipal building. Adolfo has remained ensconced in the mayor's office on the second floor.

Military exercises will be safe, Southcom says

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The Southern Command on Saturday has formulated plans to ensure that the village where military exercises involving American and Filipino troops are to be held, will not be destroyed once the training starts.

Barangay Sinubung, which is in the city's east coast, will host the exercises dubbed "Bayanihan."

At least 300 US servicemen will train their Filipino counterparts on anti-terrorism, starting mid-February.

Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, former director of the Balikatan 02-1 and the military's representative for the meeting, said the exercises should not be a concern among the villagers.

Ramon Soler, Sinubung barangay chair, said he was worrying about the threat of staging the exercises to the villagers' safety and damage to their property from the firing of weapons.

Teodosio said there would be little danger because the exercises would be held far from populated areas.

Besides, he said, the firing of live ammunitions would be conducted only inside the fully secured firing range.

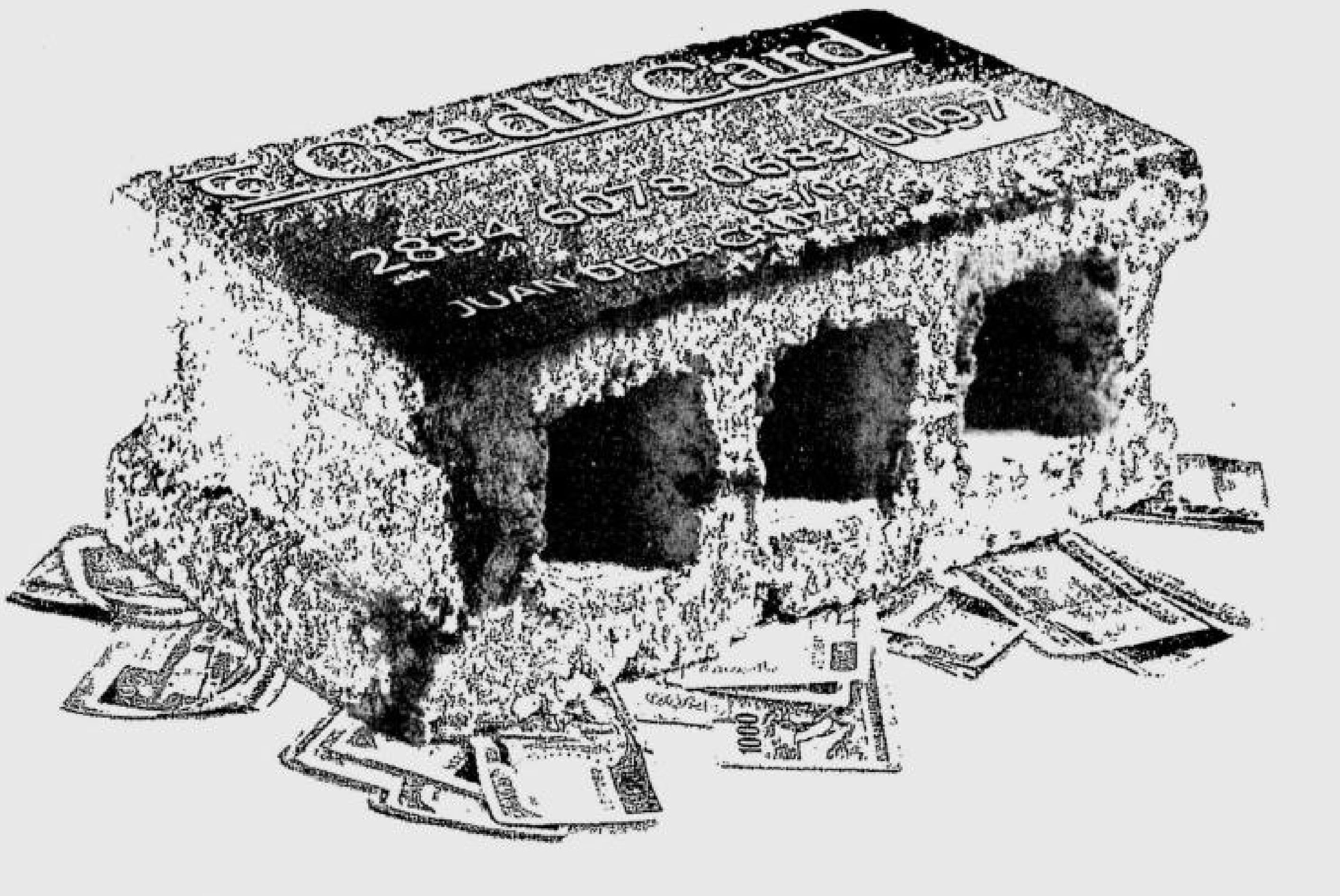
He also assured officials that the military would compensate residents if their property would be affected.

The good side of the exercises, Teodosio said, was that the residents would be able to make cash from selling rice, fish, meat and other basic commodities.

But he cautioned them against constructing beerhouses.

Lt. Col. Kevin Colyer, who heads the seven-man advance team of US trainors, said the exercises would start mid-February.

Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau



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ROUNDUP

3 killed in blast

CABANATUAN CITY—Three persons, two of them students, were killed in a grenade attack in Rizal, Nueva Ecija on Monday night. Senior Insp. Miguelito San Pedro, Rizal police chief, identified the victims as Marco Polo Mauyao, 29, and his nephews, Rafael Mauyao Jr., 16, and Orlando Villa, 17. The elder Mauyao was a member of the Poblacion Norte security group, while the other victims were students of the Rizal Provincial High School. The village's chief of security, Rafael Mauyao Sr., was wounded but survived the attack. San Pedro said the victims were talking in front of a house in the village when two men riding on a motorcycle threw the grenade at them.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Soldier kills soldier

SAN JOSE CITY—An Army captain was shot and killed by another soldier during a briefing for a military operation here on Monday. Police said the victim, Capt. Ronnie Opilas, died instantly after S/Sgt. Jaime Ugboc shot him. Reports said Ugboc suffered from a bullet wound, but it was not clear who shot him. Ugboc reportedly left the briefing at the conference room of the Army's 71st Infantry Battalion camp in Barangay Sto. Niño. When he returned, he immediately fired at Opilas. Army officials have ordered an investigation to determine what triggered the attack.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

2 NPA rebels slain

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Two communist rebels were killed in an encounter with government troops in Aurora on Sunday following the discovery of a New People's Army camp in Dinalungan town, according to Col. Jovenal Narcise, commander of the 702nd Infantry Brigade. The clash began at 7:15 a.m. and lasted for an hour in Barangay Simbahan in Dinalungan. Narcise said blood stains seen at the encounter site indicated that some of the 40 rebels that the soldiers encountered were wounded.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

'Police' hijackers

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Armed men dressed in police uniforms hijacked a truck loaded with canned tuna and sardines worth P700,000 in Lubao, Pampanga on Tuesday. Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pampanga police director, said the Canter Elf van was hijacked along MacArthur Highway while on its way to Olongapo City. The truck driver, Anthony Sahagan, said the hijackers' mobile patrol car blocked his path and ordered him at gunpoint to alight from the vehicle. They then boarded the truck and fled. Sahagan said he never suspected the armed men to be hijackers because they were wearing police uniforms and were using a police car.

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

'Hot' logs seized

LEGAZPI CITY—More than 93,000 board feet worth P1 million illegally cut lumber in Bicol were seized last year as part of the government's drive against illegal logging. Oscar Hamada, environment regional director, said Catanduanes had the biggest volume of seizures with 24,369.69 board feet. It was followed by Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Albay, Sorsogon, and Masbate. Also recovered were 29 trucks, jeepneys, vans and pump boats. Of the apprehensions, 21 cases were filed in various courts for violation of forestry laws, rules and regulations.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Customs collection

LEGAZPI CITY—Bicol's Bureau of Customs topped the country's collection last year with more than P225 million as against its annual target collection of only P12 million. BoC acting Bicol district collector Enrico Turingan Jr. said, this accomplishment was made despite the lack of manpower and the temporary closure of its offices in Virac, Catanduanes, and Masbate City. Last year's total cash collection, according to him, reached 1,775 percent higher than the P12 million target.

Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Cordillera elders ask PNP chief to stay away from tribal conflicts

By Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

CAMP DANGWA, La Trinidad, Benguet—Cordillera professionals and civic leaders on Friday asked Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Philippine National Police chief, to stay away from tribal conflicts, saying police work has been hampering their settlement efforts for decades.

The request caught Ebdane flat-footed.

The petitioners are representatives of the "councils of elders," which Ebdane formed all over the country to involve representatives of the community in solving crimes in their areas.

But Ebdane, in a dialogue held here, reminded the elders not to disregard the police because they were still the "frontliners in crime solution."

"They (elders) should work closely with them (police)," he said.

Ebdane said the PNP was encouraging the various councils of elders to submit recommendations to the police on cases that they cannot solve through the application of indigenous laws.

"But there are still cases where only the police should have a first hand on," he said.

Tribal conflicts erupt in the Cordillera due to boundary disputes and questions on the rightful claims on resources. Many of these feuds were reported in the neighboring provinces of Kalinga and Mt. Province, police said.

The National Peace and Order Council considered tribal disputes priority problems last year because, according to police records, the government failed to stop these without the unofficial support of tribal leaders.

A Mt. Province elder told Ebdane that some policemen who hail from areas involved in the conflict had been biased.

Instead of solving the conflict, these policemen favor their own tribes, the elder said.

Last week, Baguio Prosecutor Benedicto Carantes relented to a proposal to drop a murder charge filed against a Baguio resident, who hails from Kalinga, to forestall a tribal war that would have erupted once the victim's family from Mt. Province retaliated.

Ebdane, during the dialogue, also told the members of the councils of elders of Mt. Province and Kalinga to give priority to the solution of tribal conflicts.

Ebdane recognized the influence of Cordillera elders on their constituents.

"The Cordillera is a special area because of its topography. The presence of the (council of) elders will greatly help us in our fight against crime because they know the people and the terrain too well," he said.

The use of indigenous laws in crime solution is also an assurance that peace will prevail among Cordillera communities, he said.

Cordillera officials agreed that the region's councils of elders would make better policemen than trained police officers.

"We have high regard for our elders. The decisions that they make are highly respected by the whole community. I think they will do the job well," said Kalinga Gov. Macario Duguiang.

An elder said the provisions of *bodong* (indigenous peace pact or agreement) were enough to enforce the council's "police and judges roles."

Bodong is the Kalinga term for agreement which, in the context of Cordillera justice, spans the settlement of territorial disputes, resource sharing and conduct and reparation during tribal wars.

All documented indigenous Filipino communities in the Cordillera have their versions of *bodong*.

The system was introduced to the government by slain rebel priest Conrado Balweg.

Tension grips village over land claimed by B'laan folk, co-op

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Tension rose in a hinterland village of Malungon town in Sarangani province between B'laan natives and members of a cooperative over how to divide a piece of land they both claim ownership of.

The B'laan, numbering more than 600, hold Certificates of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADCs) from the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), while members of the Sarangani Fruits Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SFMPC) have been issued Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) by the Department of Agrarian Reform for the 102-hectare property in Datal Tampal, which used to belong to the Alcantara Pomelo Plantation.

The dispute started sometime last year when the NCIP issued the CADC covering the area which had already been awarded to former plantation workers who formed the SFMPC.

The provincial government, in an effort to prevent the situation from worsening, had tried to come up with a compromise formula.

Gov. Miguel Escobar had proposed that the land be equally divided between the two groups.

The B'laan were amenable to the proposal, but the cooperative insisted on getting 68 hectares of land and the B'laan, only 34 hectares.

The counter-proposal was immediately rejected by the tribal people who forcibly took over a portion of the land.

Francisco Gacal, the cooperative's legal counsel, sought the intervention of the court.

He said the CADCs, which the B'laan were banking upon to push their claim, did not give them absolute ownership of the land.

Gacal said Certificates of Ancestral Land Title (CALT) should be issued first to reinforce the CADCs before the B'laan could lay ownership over the property. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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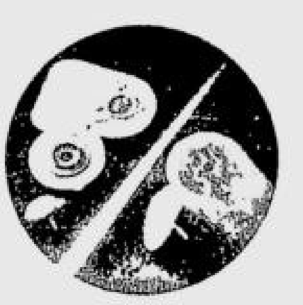

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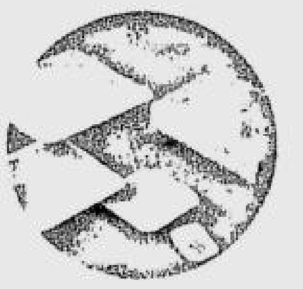

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FEU at 75

legacies and challenges

10 Interesting Things About Far Eastern University

By Dinna Louise C. Dayao

Many of us have passed the FEU campus countless times without giving it a second look. Little do we know that this well-known university belt landmark hides many pleasant surprises.

Let's examine this familiar institution with fresh eyes. Here is a list of 10 little-known facts about the Far Eastern University.

FEU founder Dr. Nicanor Reyes democratized education and blazed the trail for Filipino accountants.

Dr. Lourdes Reyes Montinola, Chair of FEU's Board of Trustees and Reyes' daughter, sums up her father's legacy in the book *Mr. FEU: The Culture Hero That Was Nicanor Reyes* (copyright 1995 by Far Eastern University): "Once, the idea of a center for learning affordable to all was only a dream. Accounting as a profession was available only to foreigners, and was not given the importance in all Asia and the Philippines that it now has. Dr. Reyes changed all that."

He was guided by the belief that a college education should be made available to the working student. And, at a time when the most honored professions were medicine and law, the pioneer accountant-who was awarded the first ever Ph.D. in accounting from Columbia University-had no doubt that Filipinos could be topnotch accountants. So he established FEU to democratize education and to promote accounting as a major profession among his countrymen.

Five men, united by Dr. Reyes' vision, were the founding fathers of FEU.

Economist Clemente Uson, businessmen Celso Icasiano and Rafael Roces, and lawyer Francisco Dalupan shared his obsession of reinventing academe and popularizing the accounting profession in the Philippines. Headed by Dr. Reyes, the five became the founding-fathers of the Institute of Accountancy, the forerunner of FEU, in 1928. Each contributed 500 pesos in cash to a shoestring budget that was not even enough to provide the fledgling school with a library. So they loaned the school books from their own libraries.

The university ranks among the top accounting schools in the country.

In 1930, the first batch of certified public accountants (CPA) examinees from what was then the Institute of Accounts, Business and Finance-six young men and two young women-made news by hogging the top notches. Number one was Pablo Tobias. And the rest of the top eight places, except for number two, were won by the batch.

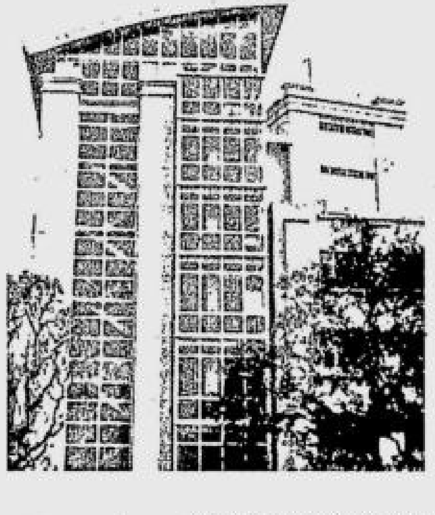
FEU accounting students continue to excel in the CPA board examinations. The university remains an institution to go to for an excellent accounting education.

In the fields of nursing, law, and architecture, FEU examination results way surpass the national performance.

FEU students excel outside the classroom, too.

They are considered among the country's best scholars. FEU students regularly garner major awards in national and inter-school competitions. They also stand out in accounting, management, and art competitions such as the PLDT-DPC Visual Art National Competition and the Petron National Art Competition.

In 2002, Ryan Kaliph Buenafe won first place among the Philippines' top universities in a debating competition promoted by the British Council. He thus earned the right to represent the Philippines in the English Speaking Union Contest held in London in the same year. FEU students also stand out in accounting, management, and art competitions such as the PLDT-DPC Visual Art National Competition and the Petron National Art Competition. In 2001, Alvin Lorenzo was awarded one of 10 Outstanding Students of the Philippines. In the same year, FEU's delegation of student leaders was awarded most outstanding delegation among 79 schools participating in YMCA's 27th National College Students' Congress. They were awarded Hall of Famers as most outstanding delegation. Iyanololuwa Adewuya was chosen one of the Three Most Outstanding Foreign Students of the Philippines.

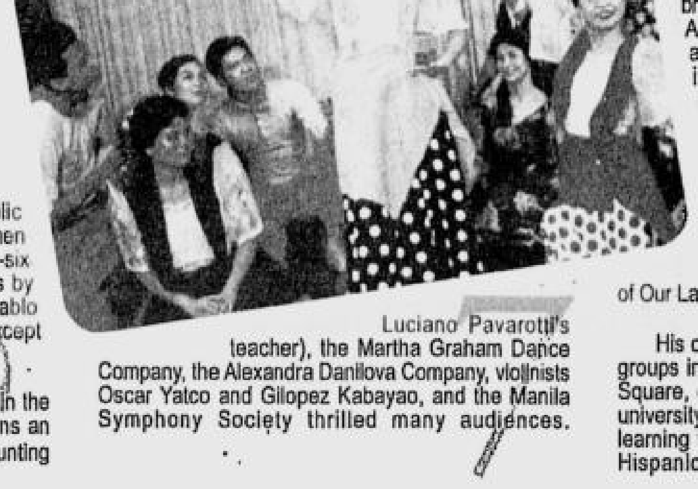


The institution's tuition and other fees are affordable even in the metropolis.

This is in line with one of FEU's aims to provide quality education not just to the elite. In addition, the university offers family discounts. Under this program, when two or more siblings study at FEU, except for the first child, other siblings can avail themselves of a 30 percent discount off the basic tuition fee.

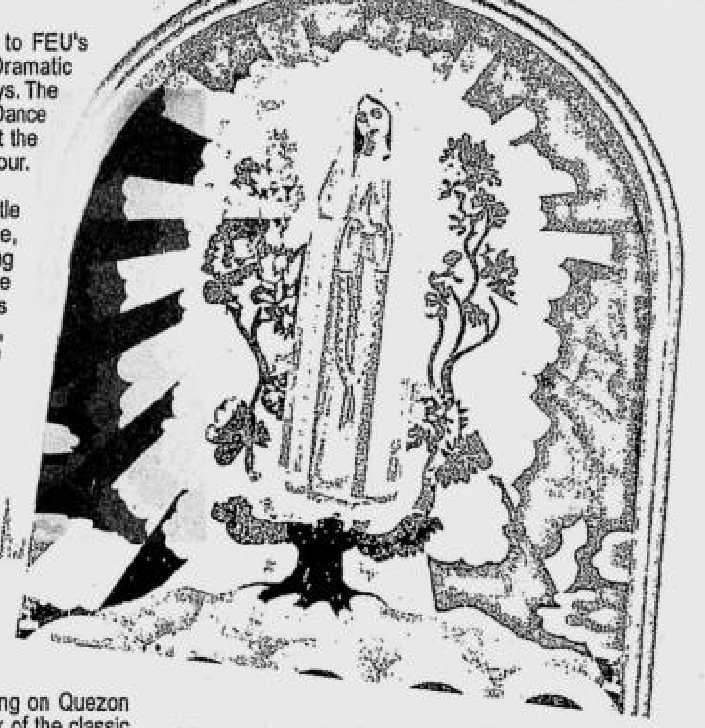
The FEU Auditorium was Manila's cultural center in the 1950s.

From its opening in 1949 through the 1950s and the 1960s, the auditorium featured the country's top artists and leading performers from all over the world. Luminaries such as prominent singer Jovita Fuentes, tenor Arrigo Pola (later known as Luciano Pavarotti's teacher), the Martha Graham Dance Company, the Alexandra Danilova Company, violinists Oscar Yatco and Gilopez Kabayao, and the Manila Symphony Society thrilled many audiences.



The auditorium was also home to FEU's performing groups. There, the FEU Dramatic Guild presented classic and modern plays. The internationally multi-awarded FEU Folk Dance Group honed its terpsichorean skills at the auditorium before it went on a world tour.

The FEU Auditorium "triggered a little cultural renaissance, especially dance, drama, and grand opera, besides providing high society with an intellectual excuse for putting on glamour and glitter," writes Nick Joaquin, National Artist for Literature, in the book *FEU Auditorium: A Golden Heritage* (copyright 2000 by Far Eastern University). Besides Manila's elite, the art-loving public and culture enthusiasts-struggling poets, fictionists, painters, sculptors, singers, dancers, and actors-were also regular theatergoers.



The FEU campus is a national architectural gem.

The facade of FEU's Main Building on Quezon Boulevard is "an architectural hallmark of the classic Art Deco style," writes Augusto Villalon in *Art and Culture at Far Eastern University* (Copyright 2003 by Far Eastern University). The style is characterized by linear or angular composition with geometrically stylized decoration. "Conceived as a futuristic building in 1939, the structure has passed the test of time and now assumes its place as one of Manila's architectural treasures," states Villalon.

Dr. Reyes commissioned Pablo Antonio, who later became a National Artist for Architecture, to architecturally render his vision of a forward-looking university. Antonio's expertise is evident in the Main Building's "well-executed compact plan which lends spaciousness by simplicity of elements and well-organized interiors," notes the *Far Eastern Review*.

The campus suffered from the ravages of World War II and the unrest of the Martial Law years. FEU's administrators realized that achieving a quality education requires a quality environment. So they began a restoration program in 1989 which brought back the old buildings and campus to their antebellum glory. New buildings were added, carefully designed so that they would be compatible with the older landmark Art Deco buildings. A green, tree-lined quadrangle and trellises of flowering vines around the campus were landscaped, refreshing students and creating a serene haven.

FEU is a treasure trove of Filipino masterpieces.

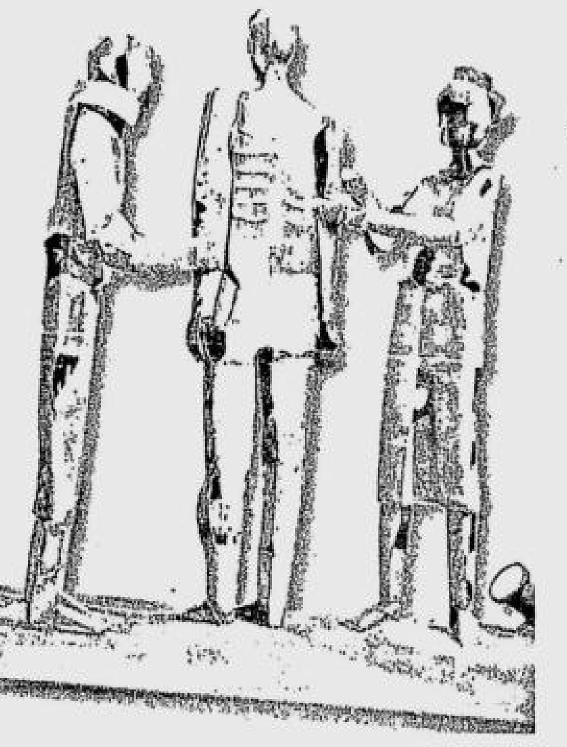
A walking tour of art throughout the campus brings one face-to-face with the works of National Artist Fernando Amorsolo, Carlos Francisco, and Vicente Manansala, writes Alfredo Roces in *Art and Culture at Far Eastern University*. Amorsolo's portrait of FEU founder Nicanor Reyes has found a home in the corporate boardroom. Francisco's Stations of the Cross are installed on the walls of the FEU Chapel, leading to the focal point above the altar, The Crucified Christ, also by Francisco. Manansala's tile mosaic of Our Lady of Fatima adorns the facade of the chapel.

His copper-sheet sculptures are clustered in four groups installed on the Dr. Nicanor Reyes Memorial Square, considered the most distinctive spot in the university's quadrangle. They represent the value of learning the sciences, love of God and country, pre-Hispanic law, and government and democracy.

The university has a rich literary history.

FEU has nurtured a wellspring of literary talent. "A literary magazine, *Transition*, served as an outlet for FEU's budding writers, many of whom went on to garner university and national awards, notably the Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature," writes Pacita-Icasiano Habana in *Art and Culture at Far Eastern University*. These Palanca prizewinners include creative writers Azucena Grajo-Uranza, Buenaventura S. Medina Jr., Anacleta Encarnacion, Jose M, Buhain, and Leopoldo Gonzalez.

The presence of faculty and administrators who are celebrated writers contributed to the growth of literary writing on campus. Alejandro R. Roces, one of the finest Filipino humorists, was responsible for promoting art and culture on campus. He was at one time Dean of the Institute of Arts and Sciences. Alfredo Roces, a well-known writer and painter, was a lecturer in the humanities. Short story writer Greg Brillantes taught the craft at FEU. Presently, Dr. Montinola, Chair of FEU's Board of Trustees, is also a noted writer. Her coffee table book *Pina*, on the delicate, woven fabric, won the Manila Critics' Circle National Book Award for Art in 1991. Her poignant war memoir *Breaking the Silence*, was awarded the Manila Critics' Circle National Book Award for Biography in 1996.



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Mr. FEU
The Culture Hero That Was Nicanor Reyes

(Excerpted from "Mr. FEU: The Culture Hero That Was Nicanor Reyes," by Nick Joaquin. Copyright 1995 by Far Eastern University. All rights reserved)

On August 17, 1940, Don Manuel Quezon, President of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, toured FEU's four-and-a-half-hectare campus. The tour ended in the office of FEU president Dr. Nicanor Reyes, where, over drinks and snacks, Don Manuel learned more about the new university. The Commonwealth era was a time of intense nationalism; and President Quezon could not but exult that, in a country where education had hitherto been controlled by the white sahibs, the Filipinos were now taking over. The FEU was number one in the Philippine academe.

Said Quezon to the Filipino responsible: "Dr. Reyes, I am proud of your university! For the first time Filipinos have succeeded in establishing a spacious campus that merits admiration. I believe your university to be the best non-sectarian institution in the country. I have also heard of the success of your graduates. I congratulate you!"

Quezon was congratulating Dr. Reyes on material success. But Dr. Reyes and the FEU represented something greater: cultural progress. A metaphysical advance had been made that guaranteed Dr. Reyes a shrine in Philippine history as culture hero. For the first time in the Philippines, business was being equated with the intellectual. And the groves of academe were being associated with the operations of the agora. The university had been hauled down from Utopia to the shops on the Rialto. College as practical mass education: that was the achievement as cultural hero of Nicanor Reyes. He democratized the campus.

A culture hero is one who brings to a community a new seed, a new tool, a new art, a new craft, or a new revelation. And the new seed, tool, art, craft, and revelation brought us by Nicanor Reyes can be summed up in four innovations: accounting as a profession; the business school; night classes; the working student.

These have now become so routine we can no longer imagine a time when they were considered abnormal and anomalous. Because he transformed the aberration into the avant-garde, we cannot but salute the man who effected so profound a revolution in Philippine culture.

Through the centuries, a college education-and therefore pretensions to culture-were limited to the Philippine upper classes. Even the opening of the University of the Philippines in the 1900s opened no new doors to the young proletariat with talent and ambition-but no money-wanting the challenges of higher education and the enlightenment of culture.

Those much-needed doors would not open until the 1920s, with the establishment of certain schools that deliberately bucked academic tradition (today they would be called "poor student friendly"), the most notable of which was the institute founded by Nicanor Reyes in 1928.

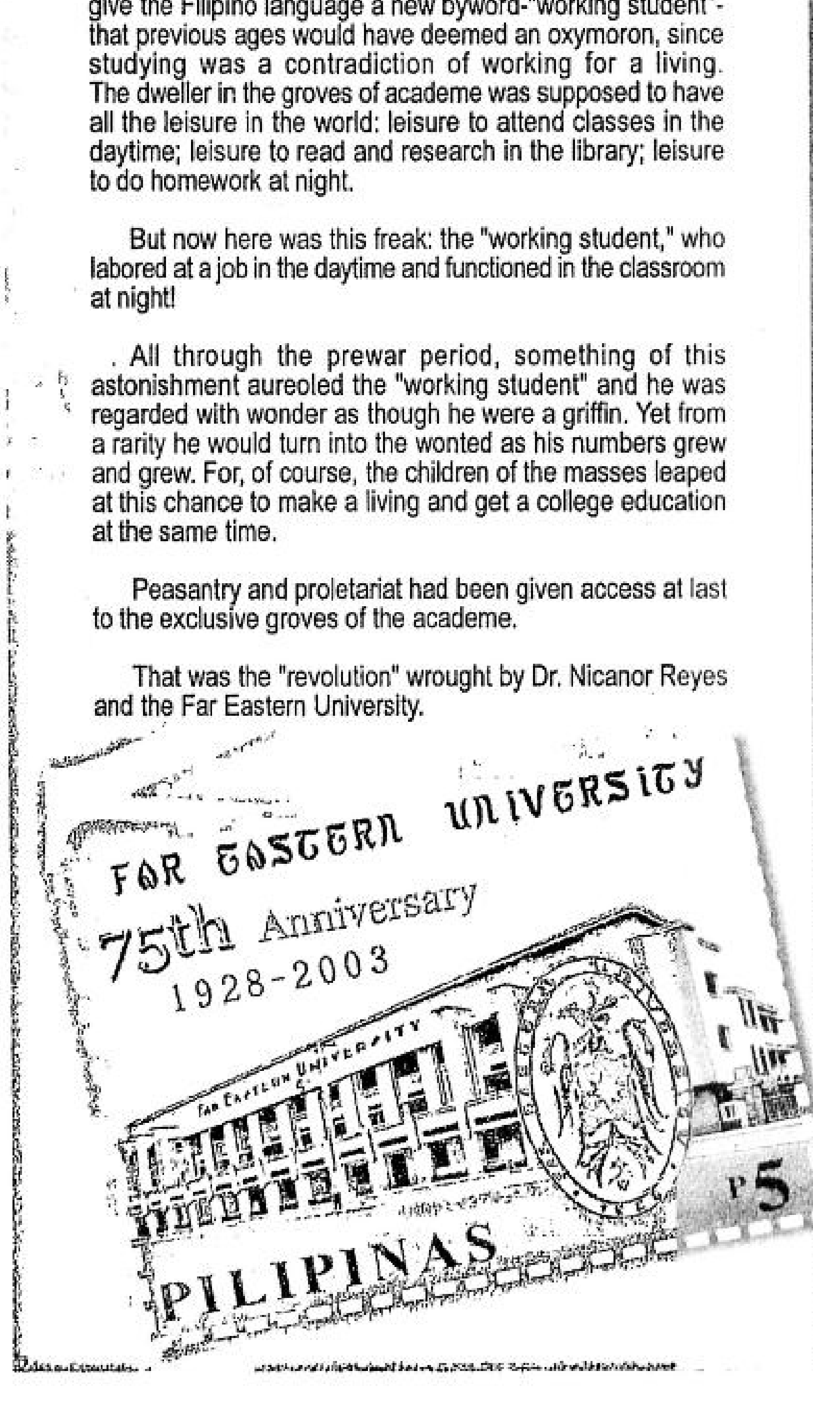
The rise and success of the Far Eastern University would give the Filipino language a new byword-"working student"-that previous ages would have deemed an oxymoron, since studying was a contradiction of working for a living. The dweller in the groves of academe was supposed to have all the leisure in the world: leisure to attend classes in the daytime; leisure to read and research in the library; leisure to do homework at night.

But now here was this freak: the "working student," who labored at a job in the daytime and functioned in the classroom at night!

. All through the prewar period, something of this astonishment aureoled the "working student" and he was regarded with wonder as though he were a griffin. Yet from a rarity he would turn into the wonted as his numbers grew and grew. For, of course, the children of the masses leaped at this chance to make a living and get a college education at the same time.

Peasantry and proletariat had been given access at last to the exclusive groves of the academe.

That was the "revolution" wrought by Dr. Nicanor Reyes and the Far Eastern University.



The Cream of the Crop

The 75th Outstanding Alumni Award recognizes FEU graduates for their extraordinary contributions to the growth and development of the country. These individuals' stellar achievements in their vocations have brought honor and prestige to Far Eastern University.

The search for outstanding alumni, launched in 2002, culminates in three separate awarding ceremonies: First Cluster, January 30, 2003, Second Cluster, March 1, 2003, and Third Cluster, May 30, 2003.

FEU OUTSTANDING ALUMNI Cluster 1
Awarding on January 30, 2003, Thursday
7:00 o'clock p.m.
FEU Auditorium

Dr. Fernando G. Ayuyao
Jorge L. Banal
Arthur Dilanco Cantos
Dr. Flordeliza A. Castro
Atty. John L. Choa
Rolando L. Cordero
Edwin M. Cordevilla
Victoriano Cruz
Dr. Josefina Cunanan vda. de Jesus
Guillermo M. de Leon, Jr.
Dr. Rosalinda Datu-Evangelista
Rep. Neptali Gonzales, II
Dr. Lucila V. Hosillos
Myrna S. Javier
Dr. Lilia Pagtakhan-Luna
Evergisto C. Macatulad
Atty. Manuel Q. Malvar
Lydia de Vega-Mercado
Carmelita Harina-Nepomuceno
Salvador D. Pangilinan
Salvador R. Poserio
Atty. Angel H. Quizon
Guillermo H.A. Santos
Rep. Paisalin P. Tago
Dr. Delfin A. Tan
Misael P. Vera (Posthumous Award)

FEU OUTSTANDING ALUMNI Cluster 2
Awarding on March 1, 2003,
Saturday, 6:00 o'clock p.m.
FEU Auditorium

Dr. Esperanza Uro-Balcos
Ofelia Gloria Balcos
Pascasio S. Banaria
Nelson Co
Dr. Paciente A. Cordero, Jr.
Alberto P. Cruz
Dr. Anacleta M. Encarnacion
Celso D. Gangan
Amb. Ernesto Garrido
Mayor Alfredo Lim
Teresita Sipriaso-Manuel
Atty. Tomas Mapa
Angelica L. Mendoza
Feliciano L. Miranda
Alfredo B. Parungao
Dr. Josefina A. Patron
Benjamin R. Punongbayan
Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval
Angelito M. Simba
Antonio P. Tecson
Dr. Lucila F. Tibigar
Theresita Ordonez-Turla
Dr. Pedro Encarnacion Zaldivar

FEU OUTSTANDING ALUMNI Cluster 3
Awarding on May 30, 2003,
Friday, 7:00 'clock p.m.
Makati Shangri-La Hotel

Marcelo M. Casillan, Jr.
Undersecretary Manuel G. Collantes
Anesia B. vda. de Dionisio
Justice Jesus M. Elbinias
Dr. Jorge Garcia
Menardo R. Jimenez
Dr. Fortune Tam-Kennedy
Adela Gonzales-Magpayo
Justice Fermin Martin, Jr.
Atty. Manuel G. Montecillo
Justice Salome A. Montoya
Sedfrey Ordonez,
Justice Artemio Panganiban
Dr. Renato Paras
Eugenio R. Reyes
Dr. Josephine C. Reyes
Dr. Rolando Solis
Sec. Patricia A. Sto. Tomas
Henry Sy
Dr. Ramon Y. Sy
Dr. Wilfrido C. Tecson
Asso. Justice Eubulo G. Verzola
Tomas J. Viray
Amb. Alfonso T. Yuchengco
Jesus Cabarrus (Posthumous Award)
Dr. Nicanor Reyes, Jr. (Posthumous Award)

A Renaissance Man's Legacy

Dr. Nicanor Reyes had "an intellect where commerce and finance lived side by side with the arts," writes Nick Joaquin in Mr. FEU: The Culture Hero That Was Nicanor Reyes. The educator envisioned a university that would establish a tradition of excellence not only in academics but also in the fields of art and culture. He prodded students to excel in their chosen fields of study and encouraged their participation in drama, dance, and musical presentations.

The book Art and Culture @ Far Eastern University, which will be launched during FEU's 75th Anniversary, defines the role of FEU in the country's cultural history and is dedicated to Dr. Reyes' memory. The book, designed by Alfredo Roces and edited by Sylvia Roces-Montilla, is a collection of articles written mainly by Nick Agudo, Pacita Icasiano-Habana, Rodrigo Perez III, Alfredo Roces, Azucena Grajo-Uranza, and Augusto Villalon.

Schedule of Activities

DAY 1 MONDAY JANUARY 27, 2003

7:30 am Floral Offering, Manila Memorial Park

10:30 am Thanksgiving Mass, Chapel
Commemorative Offering, Marker Behind Grandstand

1:30 pm Opening, Decade Presentation Exhibit, Pavilion

DAY 2 TUESDAY JANUARY 28, 2003

8:00 am Bloodletting, University Clinic

8:00 am FEU 1st Annual Inter-University On-the-Spot Painting Competition,
Auditorium and University Conference Center

8:00 am ORADEC Interschool Public Speaking Competition:
The Nicanor Reyes Challenge,
Auditorium and University Conference Center

9:00 am Opening, IARFA Exhibit, IARFA Gallery

9:00 am Open House, Science & Mathematics, Science Bldg.
1st-4th Floors

1:00 pm Opening, IABF Expo, NRH Lobby

4:00 pm Launching of Commemorative Stamp, Auditorium

Book launching of "Art and Culture @ Far Eastern University,"
Auditorium

Inauguration, College of Engineering Buildings

DAY 3 WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29, 2003

8:00 am Bloodletting, University Clinic

10:00 am FEU Anniversary Lecture Series
H.E. Pres. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Auditorium

2:00 pm FEU Anniversary Lecture Series
Dept. of Education Secretary Dr. Edilberto C. de Jesus, Auditorium

9: 00 am Opening, IARFA Exhibit, IARFA Gallery

DAY 4 THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 2003

9:00 am Students' Recognition Awards
Ceremonies, Auditorium

1:00 pm IABF Expo Awards Ceremonies,
University Conference Center

3:00 pm Employee/Faculty Awards Ceremonies, Auditorium

5:30 pm Poetry Reading, FEU Plaza

7:00 pm Alumni Awards First Cluster, Auditorium

DAY 5 JANUARY 31, 2003

7:30 am PElympics Cheering Competition Sports Explosion, Quadrangle

1:00 pm Dance Attack, Auditorium

6:00 pm Students' Band Concert, Quadrangle

Far Eastern University is centrally located on a spacious city block on Morayta, now Nicanor Reyes Street, facing Quezon Boulevard in the heart of Manila. The four-and-a-half-hectare campus contains a tree-lined quadrangle and 11 streamlined buildings. There are a total of 210 classrooms, 61 laboratories, and five libraries-including an electronic library with 122 computer terminals with internet connection on campus.

The university has a current student population of 25,000. It employs 1,077 faculty members. The teacher-to-student ratio is 1:23.

FEU's coat of arms consists principally of an eight-point star representing the eight main disciplines of study offered by the university, namely: accounts, business and finance, architecture and fine arts, arts and sciences, education, engineering, graduate studies; law, and nursing. The heraldic supporter is a sarimanok motif projecting the nationalistic spirit upon which the university was founded.

Every FEU athletic team has the tamaraw (*scientific name: bubalus mindorensis*) as its mascot. The rare animal is known for its intelligence and pugnacity.

FEU Trivia

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PDI readers bring miracle to Nicole

From page A1

suffered from acute myelogenous leukemia (AML).

After two bone marrow transplants during two months of confinement at the Asian Medical Center (AMC), Nicole was discharged on Jan. 18, her blood count and vital signs normal. It had been a very long and exhausting journey for the frail girl, her father Ferdinand, and her brothers Justin, 10 and Kevin, 2.

Last year on Jan. 26, during Kevin's birthday celebration, Nicole's mother Irene had a massive heart attack. She did not survive. Her sudden demise plunged the Figueroas into deep sadness. Nicole found some solace in taking over the care of her baby brother after her school work.

In June, just a few weeks before her ninth birthday, Nicole was diagnosed with AML. She needed an immediate bone marrow transplant.

Consulting a doctor in one of Metro Manila's largest private hospitals, the family was told that the delicate and expensive operation would cost them P3 million. The message was clear: "No money, no cure."

Meanwhile, Nicole was slipping away. The Figueroas threw themselves into a frantic e-mail fund-raising campaign. Help trickled in from strangers.

The INQUIRER published Nicole's story in September last year and set a bigger drive in motion. A woman from Davao sent her niece to Manila and personally handed P100,000 to Ferdie. Many other anonymous donors deposited what they could into a bank account that Ferdie had set up for Nicole. Many more who couldn't help with money pledged prayers.

This first round brought in close to a million pesos—way off the target, but Ferdie was grateful and deeply consoled.

A sign

At around this time, a young Filipino doctor who had recently come home from the United States heard about Nicole's case. Dr. Francis Lopez had trained in Rhode Island and at the City of Hope Hospital in California, specializing in bone marrow transplant.

An uncle of Nicole's who knew the oncologist from college lost no time in locating him.

"When Nicole's uncle called, I took it as a sign," Lopez said. He had just finished a "challenging" case and sensed that another one was up. "I said to myself, she must be it."

DR. FRANCIS Lopez looks after his patient Nicole. CATHY GUBALLA

Together with his partner, pediatric hematologist Dr. Alan Racho, Lopez met with Ferdie.

"There wasn't any mention about money," Ferdie recalled their conference. "Doctors Racho and Lopez had only one concern—that the procedure be performed at the soonest possible time." The best part, he said, was that the two doctors and the support team at the AMC managed to peg the cost of the transplant at about P1.5 million.

It was going to be the first bone marrow transplant at the AMC. Lopez personally flew to Singapore to purchase the medicines. Nicole's older brother Justin was to be the donor.

Good wishes

On Dec. 2, Justin's cells were "harvested," and the first transfusion took place. This was followed by two weeks of praying and hoping that the procedure was successful, and that maybe Nicole could be home for Christmas. This period of extreme anxiety was made bearable only by good wishes that continued to be showered on the Figueroas.

Lopez had a patient recovering from breast cancer who gave Nicole P45,000. The doctor recounted: "She told me, 'I'm 40 years old and this girl is just 9. I'll be okay.'"

An elderly couple, who had read the INQUIRER story, visited twice. "The first time they came," Ferdie said, "they paid the hospital bills, about P40,000 at the time. A week after the first transplant, they came back and paid the hospital another P150,000." The couple did not introduce themselves.

Just before Christmas, Nicole's body rejected her brother's cells. Lopez explained: Instead of forming new bone marrow, her cells attacked those that came from Justin. "Sometimes it just happens."

Lopez and Racho decided to perform a second transplant on Dec. 30.

Justin had calmly sat through the first harvest, but this time he was agitated. "We had to sedate him," Lopez recalled. The doctor himself was now worried. "The second would have to work. I was not going to do a third—we might not have a happy ending."

He turned to prayer, too.

The miracle

On Jan. 7, Nicole's red blood cell count began to rise. Five days later, it hit normal level. Ferdie wept with happiness. Lopez realized, "God would not give us a miracle that easy. He wanted us to trust Him more."

A small thanksgiving party at the AMC 10 days later was attended by the hospital administrators and nursing staff, Nicole's teachers and classmates, family and friends. Though still without hair, the patient was in high spirits and eager to go home.

All in all, the hospital bill came to around P1.75 million.

Nicole came home on little Kevin's second birthday, the first anniversary of her mother's passing.

Lopez said the next three months would be crucial for the girl, with infections to guard against, and more expense to reckon with. But right now, Ferdie's heart is filled only with faith in the goodness of both God and his fellowmen.

"We will continue to miss Irene," Ferdie said of his departed wife, "but we are counting our blessings—there's so much to be thankful for."

Gov'ts, solons urged: Invest in families

From page A1

"It is a grave irresponsibility against human integrity and existence for politicians and legislators to give in to the culture of death, and for doctors to become accomplices in assaults against the human person," he said.

"Laws all over the world should respect the gift of life and not conspire at death, in the cruelty and shame of procured abortion," he added.

Trujillo said governments should not use poverty as justification for allowing abortion. "Poverty, against which we have to fight courageously in the midst of widespread injustice in this world, becomes a bitter tragedy when children are abandoned, or become victims or made to pay for the irresponsibility of parents," he said.

He also advised parents to love their children, in whom they renew their lives. "Do not convert mothers' wombs, which are fountains of life, into tombs."

The papal envoy urged families to "reject with all your might" those who abuse and subject children to capital punishment and warned about the potential horror if scientists tinker with human life.

"Seduced by science and technology, many presume that they are arbiters of life, in all kinds of dangerous manipulation that can even become nightmares to humanity," he said.

5-day festival

The five-day festival of prayer, dance and song dealt with threats to families worldwide, including high rates of divorce, broken families, incest, same-sex marriages and alienation within the home brought by preoccupation with the Internet and cable television.

On Saturday, ailing Pope John Paul II used a satellite television link to urge the huge crowd that gathered at the park not to waver in their faith.

The crowd swelled when tens of thousands of members of a Catholic group called El Shaddai staged a candlelit march to the park, where they stayed overnight for yesterday's Mass.

Security concerns and the Pope's absence caused the number of foreign delegates to drop from 4,000 that was originally expected to about 500 from 82 countries, organizers said.

The Pope was scheduled to visit Asia's largest predominantly Catholic country for the conference, but the Vatican canceled the trip months ago. The long voyage apparently was considered too taxing for the Pope's frail health.

The next World Meeting of Families will be held in 2006 in Valencia, Spain.

US rift with Europe shakes alliance

From page A1

support on such allies as Britain, Australia, Poland, Spain, Italy, Turkey and several Arab states, but apart from Britain and Australia (which has already sent troops to the Gulf), the other states call for a new UN resolution authorizing military action.

The Observer newspaper in London ridiculed Bush by depicting him as the Lone Ranger, replete with two pearl-handed revolvers, capturing the image of Bush among Europeans across the continent as a warmonger who cannot be stopped from going to war regardless of whether the UN inspectors can present evidence that Iraq has dismantled its weapons arsenal. Across most of Europe, including countries deemed by the United States as its steadfast allies, public opinion is running high against war.

Hanging issue

The balance of whether there will be an early war (the United States is pushing for an attack possibly in mid-February and March, when troops will not be hampered by infernal heat) is expected to be tilted in today's briefing. Max Blix, the chief UN weapons inspector, is giving a briefing to the Security Council on the progress of the inspection.

The alignments described above provide the setting for the clash between the Europeans resisting war and the United States. Since France chairs the Security Council and has veto power, meetings in the council after the briefing will show whether the ad hoc transcontinental coalition centered on France and Germany can stop the United States stampede toward war.

President Vladimir Putin of Russia, who has been assiduously courted by Bush to break away from the Franco-German axis, has told Bush that the report of UN inspectors should provide the "main criteria" in deciding what to do next.

The seriousness of the rift among the transatlantic allies was underlined by Karsten Voigt, coordinator for German-American cooperation in the German foreign office, who said: "The likelihood of using force is deterring Saddam, but it is also deterring the allies."

Indeed, the hostile rhetoric between the United States and the Franco-German axis escalated last week as the United States intensified diplomatic efforts to win support for its position and as it continued to built up its forces in the Gulf to the 150,000 well equipped troops, backed by the assembly of warships in the Gulf and air power based in some Arab states and states neighboring Iraq.

On the eve of the briefing, European diplomats believe that the United States is now leaning toward the option of going to war, without UN authorization and even without military support from the major European powers. The consensus is that the United States has the military capacity to wage war singly, with only token support from its "willing" allies.

UN session sparks

The American-European dispute became inflammatory last week after a clash at a special UN session between US Secretary of State Colin Powell and the foreign ministers of France and Germany.

It is reported by the International Herald Tribune that Powell was taken aback when the German foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, said a military strike on Iraq would undercut the war on terrorism and that Germany would not support a resolution to authorize an attack. This went beyond its previous position that Germany would not participate in a military action.

Powell cast aside his prepared statement and sharply replied, "We cannot be shocked into impotence because we're afraid of the difficult choices that are ahead of us."

In a press conference, the French foreign minister, Dominique de Villepin, made a strong plea for a few more months time for UN inspectors who have said they have not found the "smoking gun" while deploring, at the same time, Iraq's failure to cooperate fully with the inspectors' search.

This plea contradicted sharply the US position. In an interview with the Financial Times of London, Powell rebuked the United States' transatlantic allies for undercutting its efforts to work within the framework of the international community. "What will we know in two or three months time in the face of Iraqi non-cooperation, which you most likely will get?" he said. Inspections, he said, "will not work."

In this position, the United States is increasingly getting out of step with the international community. The head of the UN nuclear energy agency, added weight to the call for more time, saying the UN inspectors need "several months." From the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad warned that any attempt by the United States to defeat its enemies militarily was doomed to failure. "Out-terrorizing the terrorists will not work," he said.

Old Europe?

Also last week, continental tempers flared over the remarks of US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, dismissing France and Germany as "old Europe" for their efforts to avert war with Iraq. "If you look at the entire Nato [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] Europe today, the center of gravity is shifting to the east and there are lots of new members," he said.

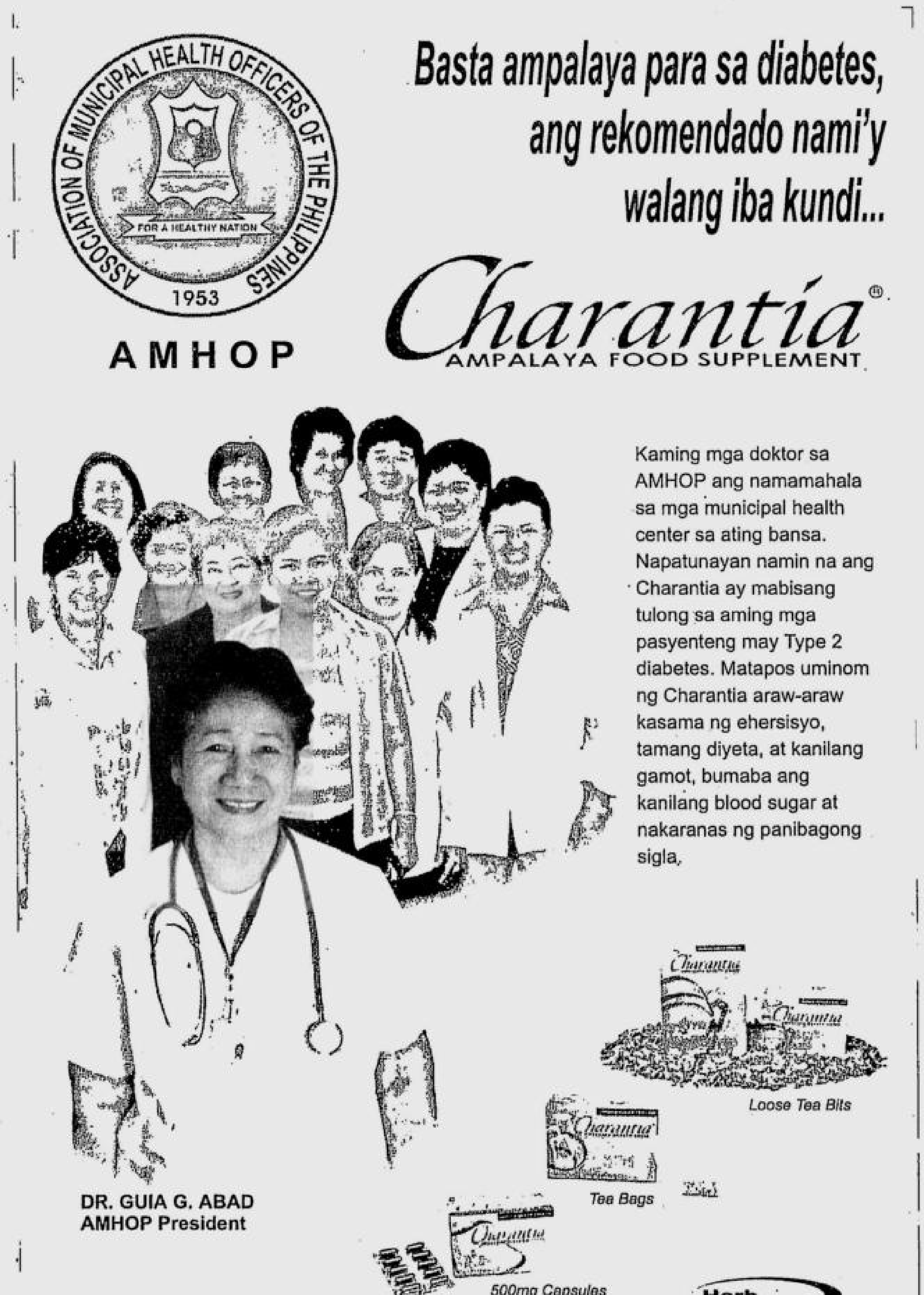
French and German officials and plain citizens were outraged. They took the remarks as an example of American arrogance. The French finance minister, Francis Mer, said he was insulted by the description of France and Germany as "old Europe," and the German foreign minister, Josckha Fisher, said the United States should tone down its rhetoric. Martinne Aubry, a Socialist leader, said Washington "continues to want to govern the world alone and more and more without rules."

Rumsfeld's derisive remarks betray unfamiliarity with the geopolitical shifts in Europe. It ignores the fact that France and Germany are the centerpieces of the European Union and the continental economy. They shape the direction of EU toward expansion from 15 to 25 members in 2004. Enlargement strengthens Germany's—not Washington's—sphere of influence in central Europe.

As the United States intensified its diplomatic offensive to win support for an early attack, war jitters heightened, sending the stock markets dipping. The inevitability of war became more pronounced as Powell said, "I don't think we'll have to worry about going it alone." A US official is reported by the IHT as having acknowledged that the United States does not now have the votes to force a second resolution authorizing an attack.

At the meeting of the Security Council last week, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin, an acknowledged intellectual, lectured the United States on the dangers of precipitate unilateral military action .

"If, at any given moment, the US decides to embark on a military action, the first question we will ask is its legitimacy," he said. "The second will be the effectiveness of this action." This statement put France in a collision course with Washington.



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A CALL TO ACTION FOR ALL FILIPINOS

Get your Representative on the right side of history!

Tomorrow, January 28, 2003, at 4pm, the House of Representatives in plenary will finally hear the Justice Committee Report of December 12, 2002, seeking to dismiss the impeachment complaint against Comelec commissioner **Luzviminda Tancangco**. The Report does not contain any explanation whatsoever on why it finds the complaint insufficient in substance. The absence of any explanation is rationalized by simply stating that the dismissal of the complaint is entirely a matter of political discretion. But there is a limit to which this discretion may be exercised.

Our Representatives elected by us must not ignore acts of gross inexcusable negligence, graft and corruption, betrayal of public trust and violation of the Constitution, documented by the Commission on Audit and supported by a Supreme Court decision, and enumerated in the 280-page complaint. These illegal acts were committed against the Filipino people.

These acts must be investigated.

Ask your Representative to be present during the hearing, and to reverse the committee report by voting for the holding of a formal investigation of the impeachable acts committed by Tancangco.

As citizens, you have the right to ask your Representatives to get to the truth of the matter. Contact your congressmen now and get them on the people's side. Be present also during the plenary hearing in Congress to show your support to the advocates of clean and honest elections.

Your act can make a difference.

Those who are on the people's side and demanded an investigation of the charges:

Puentevella, Monico (Bacolod City) - **Rodriguez**, Oscar (Pampanga 1) - **Wacnang**, Laurence (Kalinga) - **Gunigundo**, Magtanggol (Valenzuela City) - **Cuenco**, Antonio (Cebu City 2) - **Gozos**, Oscar (Batangas 4) - **Cabilao**, Belma (Zamboanga-Sibugay) - **Fua**, Orlando (Siquijor) - **Lanot**, Henry (Pasig City) - **Banaag**, Leovigildo (Agusan Norte 1) - **Cagas**, Douglas (Davao Sur 1) - **Nachura**, Antonio Eduardo (Samar 2) - **Gonzales**, Raul (Iloilo City) - **Salapuddin**, Jerry (Basilan) - **Garcia**, Enrique (Bataan) - **Abad**, Florencio (Batanes) - **Acosta**, Nereus (Bukidnon 1) - **Alfelor**, Jr. Felix (Camarines Sur 1) - **Ancheta**, Berthobal (Bukidnon 2) - **Aquino**, III Benigno (Tarlac 2) - **Bacani**, Rodolfo (Manila 4) - **Beltran**, Crispin (Bayan Muna) - **Bersamin**, Jr., Luis (Abra) - **Carloto**, Angel (Zamboanga Norte 3) - **Castelo-Daza**, Nanette (Quezon City 4) - **Celeste**, Arthur (Pangasinan 1) - **Chiongbian**, Erwin (Sarangani) - **Chungalao**, Solomon (Ifugao) - **Dadivas**, Rodriguez (Capiz 1) - **Dy**, Consuelo (Pasay City) - **Erice**, Edgar (Caloocan City 2) - **Ermita-Buhain**, Eileen (Batangas 1) - **Gullas**, Jose (Cebu 1) - **Hizon**, Joey (Manila 5) - **Lozada**, Jose Apolinario (Negros Occidental 5) - **Malanyaon**, Corazon (Davao Oriental 1) - **Mamba**, Manuel (Cagayan 3) - **Martinez**, Clavel-Asas (Cebu 4) - **Nantes**, Rafael (Quezon 1) - **Nepomuceno**, Francis (Pampanga 1) - **Ocampo**, Saturnino (Bayan Muna) - **Perez**, Frank (Batangas 2) - **Real**, Jr., Isidoro (Zamboanga Sur 1) - **Roco**, Sulpicio (Camarines Sur 2) - **Rosales**, Loretta (Akbayan) - **Saludo**, Aniceto (Southern Leyte) - **San Juan**, Filomena (Zamboanga Sur 2) - **Solis**, Jose (Sorsogon 2) - **Sumulong**, Victor (Antipolo City) - **Torres**, Ruben (Zambales 2) - **Tulagan**, Generoso (Pangasinan 3) - **Umali**, Jr., Alfonso (Oriental Mindoro 2) - **Uy**, Edwin (Isabela) - **Ylagan**, Perpetuo (Romblon) - **Zialcita**, Eduardo (Parañaque City)

Those who have yet to take the side of the people: **Speaker de Venecia, Jose** (Pangasinan)

Abaya, Antonio (Isabela 4) – **Abaya**, Plaridel (Cavite 1) – **Almario**, Mayo (Davao Oriental 2) – **Alvarez**, Jr., Genaro (Negros Occidental 6) – **Amante**, Edelmiro (Agusan Norte 2) – **Amatong**, Prospero (Compostela Valley 2) – **Andaya**, Jr., Rolando (Camarines Sur 1) – **Angping**, Harry (Manila 3) – **Apostol**, Trinidad (Leyte 2) – **Arbison**, Abdulmunir (Sulu 2) – **Baculio**, Augusto (Misamis Oriental 2) – **Barbers**, Robert (Surigao Del Norte 2) –**Baterina**, Salacnib (Ilocos Sur 1) – **Bautista**, Claude (Davao Sur 2) – **Blazon**, Rozzano (Muntinlupa City) – **Bulut**, Elias (Apayao) – **Cari**, Carmen (Leyte 5) – **Carreon**, Cecilia (Zamboanga Norte 1) – **Castro**, Fredenil (Capiz 2) – **Cojuangco**, Carlos (Negros Occidental 4) – **Cojuangco**, Marcos (Pangasinan 5) – **Cruz**, Benjamin (BUTIL) – **Cua**, Junie (Quirino) – **Dangwa**, Samuel (Benguet) – **de Guzman**, Del Marikina City) – **Defensor**, Ma. Theresa (Quezon City 3) – **del Mar**, Raul (Cebu City 1) – **Dimaporo**, Abdullah (Lanao Del Norte 2) – **Domongan**, Mauricio (Baguio City) – **Duavit**, Michael (Rizal 1) – **Dulalas**, Ernie (Misamis Occidental 1) – **Dumpit**, Tomas (La Union 2) – **Dy**, Faustino (Isabela 3) – **Ecleo**, Glenda (Surigao Norte 1) – **Enrile**, Jr., Juan (Cagayan 1) – **Espina**, Gerardo (Biliran) – **Espino**, Jr., Amado (Pangasinan 2) – **Espinosa**, Edgar (Guimaras) – **Espinosa**, Vida (Masbate 1) – **Estrella**, III, Conrado (Pangasinan 6) – **Falcon**, Jesnar (Surigao Sur 2) – **Garcia**, Vincent (Davao City 2) – **Garin**, Oscar (Iloilo 1) – **Gatchalian**, Sherwin (Valenzuela City 1) – **Gonzales**, II, Neptali (Mandaluyong City) – **Gordon**, James (Zambales 1) – **Ipong**, Gregorio (North Cotabato 2) – **Javier**, Exequiel (Antique) – **Joaquin**, Uliran (Laguna 1) – **Joson**, Josefina (Nueva Ecija 1) – **Kintanar**, Simeon (Cebu 2) – **Lacson**, Jose Carlos (Negros Occidental 3) – **Lagman-Luistro**, Krisel (Albay 1) – **Lapus**, Jesli (Tarlac 3) – **Ledesma**, IV, Julio (Negros Occidental 1) – **Leviste**, Charity (Oriental Mindoro 1) – **Libanan**, Marcelo (Eastern Samar) – **Locsin**, Jr. Teodoro (Makati City 1) – **Locsin**, Ma. Victoria (Leyte 4) – **Lopez**, Jaime (Manila 2) – **Lopez**, Ruy Elias (Davao City 3) – **Macarambon**, Benasing (Lanao Del Sur 2) – **Macias**, Emilio (Negros Oriental 2) – **Maranon**, Alfredo (Negros Occidental 2) – **Marcos**, Maria Imelda (Ilocos Norte 2) – **Matalam**, Guimid (Maguindanao 2) – **Mathay**, Ismael III (Quezon City 2) – **Maza**, Lisa (Bayan Muna) – **Mitra**, Abraham Kahlil (Palawan 2) – **Monfort**, Narciso (Iloilo 4) – **Montilla**, Angelo (Sultan Kudarat) – **Moreno**, Oscar (Misamis Oriental 1) – **Nicolas**, Reylina (Bulacan 4) – **Nieva**, Ernesto (Manila 1) – **Olaño**, Arrel (Davao Del Norte 1) – **Ortega**, Manuel (La Union 1) – **Padilla**, Carlos (Nueva Vizcaya) – **Pichay**, Prospero Jr. (Surigao Del Sur 1) – **Pingoy**, Arthur Jr. (South Cotabato 2) – **Plaza**, Rodolfo (Agusan Del Sur) – **Punzalan**, Lynette (Quezon 2) – **Ramirez-Sato**, Josephine (Occidental Mindoro) – **Ramiro**, Herminia (Misamis Occidental 2) – **Remulla**, Gilbert Cesar (Cavite 2) - **Reyes**, Edmundo Jr. (Marinduque) – **Reyes**, Victoria (Batangas 3) – **Rodriguez**, Isidro Jr. (Rizal 2) – **Roman**, Antonino (Bataan 1) – **Romualdo**, Jurdin Jesus (Camiguin) – **Salceda**, Jose Ma. (Albay 3) – **San Luis**, Rodolfo (Laguna 4) – **Sandoval**, Federico II (Malabon/Navotas) – **Sandoval**, Vicente (Palawan 1) – **Santiago**, Joseph (Catanduanes) – **Seachon**, Fausto Jr. (Masbate 3) – **Silverio**, Lorna (Bulacan 3) – **Singson**, Eric (Ilocos Sur 2) – **Soon-Ruiz**, Nerisa (Cebu 6) – **Sy-Alvarado**, Wilhelmino (Bulacan 1) – **Syjuco**, Augusto Jr. (Iloilo 2) – **Taliño-Santos**, Emmylou (North Cotabato 1) – **Teodoro**, Gilberto (Tarlac 1) – **Teves**, Herminio (Negros Oriental 3) – **Umali**, Aurelio (Nueva Ecija 3) – **Unico**, Renato Jr. (Camarines Norte) – **Veloso**, Eduardo (Leyte 3) – **Vicencio**, Romualdo (Northern Samar 2) – **Villar**, Cynthia (Las Piñas City) – **Violago**, Eleuterio (Nueva Ecija 2) – **Yapha**, Jr., Antonio (Cebu 3) – **Yumul-Hermida**, Georgilu (Quezon 4) – **Zamora**, Manuel (Compostela Valley 1) - **Zubiri**, Juan Miguel (Bukidnon 3)

Against investigation: **Abayon**, Harlin (No. Samar 1) – **Ablan**, Jr., Roque (Ilocos Norte 1) – **Albano**, Rodolfo (Isabela 1) – **Amin** Hussin (Sulu 1) – **Aquino**, Agapito (Makati City 2) – **Badelles**, Alipio (Lanao Norte 1) – **Barinaga**, Roseller (Zamboanga del Norte 2) – **Bondoc**, Juan Pablo (Pampanga 2) – **Bueser**, Danton (Laguna 3) – **Cajes**, Roberto (Bohol 2) – **Calizo**, Gabrielle (Aklan) – **Castillo**, Bellaflor (Aurora) – **Cayetano**, Allan (Taguig-Pateros) – **Chatto**, Edgar (Bohol 1) – **Chipeco**, Joaquin (Laguna 2) – **Custodio**, Darlene (South Cotabato 1) – **Dilangalen**, Didagen (Maguindanao 1) – **Ducut**, Zenaida (Pampanga 2) – **Dumarpa**, Faysah (Lanao Sur 1) – **Durano**, Joseph (Cebu 5) – **Echiverri**, Enrico (Caloocan City 1) – **Escudero**, Francis (Sorsogon 1) – **Failon**, Ted (Leyte 1) – **Floirendo**, Antonio (Davao del Norte 2) – **Fuentebella**, Felix (Camarines Sur 3) – **Imperial**, Carlos (Albay 2) – **Jaafar**, Soraya (Tawi-tawi) - **Jala**, Eladio (Bohol 3) – **Jaraulla**, Constantino (Cagayan de Oro City) – **Lobregat**, Celso (Zamboanga City) – **Nograles**, Prospero (Davao City 1) – **Paras**, Jacinto (Negros Oriental 1) representing Emilio **Espinosa** (Masbate 2) – **Pilando**, Roy (Mt. Province) – **Suarez**, Aleta (Quezon 3) – **Suplico**, Rolex (Iloilo 5) – **Uy**, Reynaldo (Samar 1) – **Villarama**, Wilfredo (Bulacan 2) - **Villareal**, Raul (Nueva Ecija 4) – **Zamora**, Ronaldo (San Juan)

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Kintanar wife tells Sison: Don't play God

From page A1

tional differences with the CPP leadership ... (but for his) numerous criminal accountabilities to the revolutionary movement and the people."

Kintanar, who dropped out from college to join the communist movement, was the NPA chief when he was arrested in 1988. Following his release in the early 1990s, he and several top cadres were expelled from the CPP by a pro-Sison faction following a bitter power struggle.

"It was absolutely correct to put an end to his rotten, criminal, counterrevolutionary and bloody record," Rosal said.

The CPP spokesperson claimed Kintanar was responsible for the 1986 kidnapping of Japanese businessman Noboyuki Wakaoji, saying the then NPA chief and his men allegedly earned $10 million in ransom.

(Interestingly, the CPP-NPA never made such a claim of responsibility in the late 1980s when a group of non-communist rebels were tried and convicted of the Wakaoiji kidnapping. The convicts are serving life terms at the Muntinlupa penitentiary.)

More charges

Rosal also said Kintanar "connived" with former CPP Visayas Commission chief Arturo Tabara in the 1989 abduction of Bombo Radyo Philippines president Rogelio Florete whose family allegedly paid P15 million in ransom.

A "people's court" also tried Kintanar in absentia and found him guilty of pocketing at least P30 million in CPP funds in 1991 and of masterminding bank robberies using NPA operatives under his command, according to Rosal.

He also accused Kintanar of being involved in criminal syndicates and serving as "gun-for-hire to reactionary politicians."

Rosal claimed Philip Medel, main suspect in the killing of actress Nida Blanca, was "just one of the hired killers allegedly maintained and handled by Kintanar and his uncle, former Gen. Galileo Kintanar."

He said Kintanar also led a group that tried to assassinate Sison, CPP founding chair, in May 2000. He said the attempt failed because of squabbles within Kintanar's group.

Rosal also accused Kintanar of "conniving"' with the military and police in "planning and implementing surveillance operations, psy-ops and sabotage operations and attacking and attempting to destroy NPA units and guerrilla zones."

The CPP spokesperson said Kintanar's "gangsterism" violated CPP policies and rules and was perpetrated without the knowledge and consent of the party leadership.

Kintanar never got the chance to rebut all these accusations hurled against him by the CPP leadership. His bullet-riddled body lies at the Funeraria Paz in Quezon City.

But his widow, Joy, said the charges against her slain husband were "all lies."

Rosal said there had been a standing order for the NPA to arrest Kintanar in 1993 after charges against him were filed in a "people's court" that subsequently found him "guilty beyond reasonable doubt."

He said Kintanar had been evading arrest and had even taken "countermeasures to avoid facing his criminal and counterrevolutionary accountabilities."

In his statement, Rosal belied government reports that Malacañang chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao was on the NPA hit list. Tiglao, a communist cadre in his youth, has become critical of the CPP-NPA cause when he recently joined the Macapagal administration.

Maganto

Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto, head of a task force directed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to go after Kintanar's killers, yesterday urged Rosal to turn over the assassins to authorities.

Maganto said he had sent a businessman on Saturday to personally relay his message to Rosal. He said the emissary was expected to report to him today.

Bunye, however, said the government crackdown would extend to CPP-NPA "front organizations" and "militant cells" in Metro Manila and other urban centers.

"The President has directed the AFP and the PNP to conduct intelligence saturation drives to flush out underground cells and to expose the front organizations that are according to them political and material support and sanctuary," Bunye said in a statement. *With reports from Martin Marfil in Manila; Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

Foundation to unite ex-cadres in projects

From page A1

people, although in another way," Salas said in an interview.

They were putting up a group called the Serve the People Foundation, along with former top-ranking national and regional leaders of the CPP, NPA and their political umbrella, the National Democratic Front. The group included former beauty-queen-turned-anti-Marcos-activist Maita Gomez and Nilo de la Cruz, former chief of the urban hit squad Alex Boncayao Brigade.

Salas recalled that he and Kintanar had told Ms Macapagal that their group sought to "harness the revolutionary leadership" of the former rebels in support of her government's socioeconomic projects.

The President, in turn, pledged support for the foundation, Salas said. In the process, the foundation's work will also provide assistance to former rebels who had practically spent the best years of their lives in the underground, he said.

"There are no retirement nor separation benefits from the CPP-NPA," Salas joked.

Ms Macapagal assured them that their group could count on the support of various government agencies like the Department of Agriculture.

Salas said that among the first projects being set up by the foundation was a "*tilapia*" hatchery in Iloilo and a rice mill in Mindoro, which is emerging as the rice bowl of Southern Tagalog.

In Pampanga, where Salas hails, the foundation is also looking at production of items made from lahar materials.

For Mindanao, where Kintanar came from, the group wants to participate as "forest stewards" under the government's Bantay Kalikasan Program.

Salas said he and Kintanar had already initiated talks with the National Power Corp. for a program that will involve local communities in protecting power transmission lines from saboteurs.

Kintanar, however, did not live long to see the launching of the Serve the People Foundation scheduled for Feb. 14.

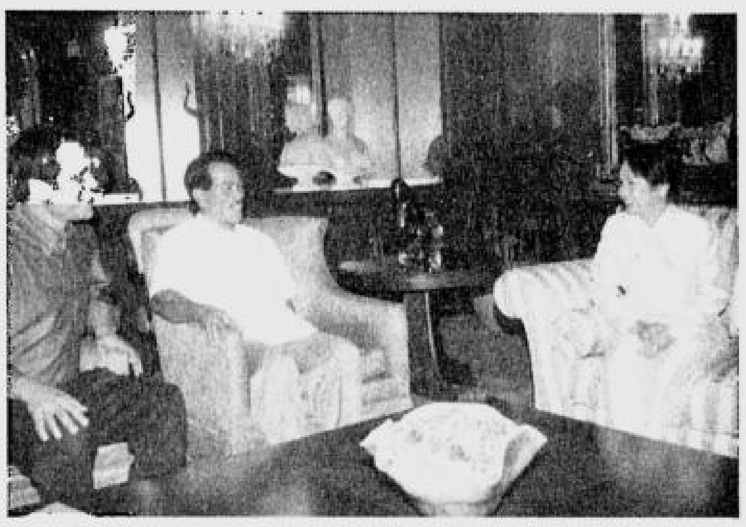
Salas surmised that the current CPP leadership "may have felt threatened that former top cadres are grouping themselves again" and this could be the motive behind Kintanar's assassination.

"These [former] cadres still command the respect, not only of the masses, but also of their former comrades who are now [holding] responsible positions in the CPP-NPA," Salas said.

Salas noted that the foundation did not make a distinction among its members regarding the diverse positions they have taken in the ideological debate that split the CPP in the early '90s.

Several ranking communist leaders had left the mainstream CPP due to ideological differences with Sison, who had then launched a movement to "reaffirm" the party's basic principles.

"There's no ideology involved here [in the foundation], just plain work for the people," Salas said.



ACUZAR NOT DELFIN

The man seated between Romulo Kintanar and President Macapagal is Jerry Acuzar of San Jose Builders. They were discussing livelihood and housing projects for rebel returnees. The caption of the same photo that appeared on Page A15 of our Jan. 25 issue erroneously identified the man in the middle as Chief Supt. Roberto Delfin. Our apologies.

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Village East (Cainta) Center 655-7479
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Gov't ...

From page A1

implementation of the social, economic, political and constitutional reforms embodied in the accord" Bello said in an interview over RMN radio.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Kintanar's assassination would not stop the government's initiative to revive the talks, especially that President Macapagal-Arroyo had already approved the draft of a proposed final peace agreement.

"These [liquidations] are isolated incidents that will not affect our peace process," Bunye said on dzMM.

Bunye said the government peace panel had already been authorized by the President to get in touch with the negotiators of the National Democratic Front (NDF), the political arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP].

"The next move really should come from the other side (NDF), particularly a statement if they're ready to engage in talks again," Bunye said.

Remove terrorist tag

To facilitate the talks, a former NDF spokesperson suggested that the administration work for the removal of the terrorist label given to the CPP by the United States and the European Union.

"This terrorist tag should be cleared as this is an obstacle to the talks," Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said in a phone interview. But he said this was a necessary step but not a precondition for the resumption of the talks.

Ocampo described as "encouraging" the President's approval of the draft of a proposed peace accord.

He surmised that this development was part of Ms Macapagal's promise in her Dec. 30 speech to heal the wounds of disunity.

"But I'm not sure whether the final draft would be satisfactory to the NDF," Ocampo said.

He said he had no idea about the contents of the government-approved draft. An earlier draft, a two-page outline, was rejected by the NDF in November 2001 because it required communist rebels to surrender before going back to the negotiating table, according to Ocampo.

In his interview over RMN, Bello said "the President wants us to talk about having just one final peace accord instead of piece-meal agreements."

Aside from the new framework, Bello said his panel would suggest to the NDF that talks be concluded within six months "so we can have time to implement the agreement during the term of President Macapagal."

He said he would await the President's orders specifying the time for resuming the negotiations. "Even before that we need to have an exploratory meeting with the NDF-CPP-NPA in order for them to accept the new framework being offered by the government," Bello said.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said the draft peace proposal was "reasonable" and aimed at bringing about lasting peace. But he would not reveal the details of the proposal.

"Essentially, the draft presents a reasonable and defensible peace accord to the NDF. I'm sure if the NDF accepts it, it will bring about prospects for a long-lasting peace acceptable to all parties concerned," Reyes told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo. *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr. PDI, Southern Luzon Bureau, Joey Gabieta and Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau and Martin P. Marfil and Agnes E. Donato in Manila*

SUERTRES 3 4 1
(In exact order)

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
5 29 34 39 42 43

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SportsTV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Superbowl XXXVII - Oakland Raiders vs Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 7 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.), ESPN

BASKETBALL: NBA - Orlando vs Boston, 2 p.m. (r - 10 p.m.) Solar Sports, Sacramento vs Toronto, 7 p.m., IBC 13

Agassi coasts to 4th Aussie Open title

AGASSI proudly displays the winner's trophy. AP

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia—Andre Agassi just keeps getting better with age.

The 32-year-old Agassi overwhelmed Rainer Schuettler right from the start and breezed to his fourth Australian Open title 6-2, 6-2, 6-1 Sunday, becoming the oldest man to win a Grand Slam singles crown in 31 years.

"There's not a single day that's guaranteed or promised to us, and certainly days like this are very rare," Agassi said.

Agassi won his eighth Grand Slam championship. And the victory might also have been enough to lure his wife, Steffi Graf, out of retirement.

Agassi had said earlier that if he won this tournament, Graf would be his partner for mixed doubles in the French Open. After the final point, Agassi gave a quick wink into the stands at Graf, who won 22 Grand Slam singles titles before she stopped playing three years ago.

"There's one positive thing: I think everyone's looking forward to the French Open," Schuettler said, drawing laughs from Agassi, Graf and the fans.

Agassi was the oldest man to win a Grand Slam singles title since Ken Rosewall won the Australian Open in 1972 at 37.

Later, he said that trying to get back to No. 1 might be too much of a grind, but "the year is a complete success for me now. I'm over the moon with it."

It was a mismatch from the beginning.

Agassi now has won the Australian Open four of the seven times he has entered. He also had won in 1995, 2000 and 2001, but injured his wrist on the eve of last year's Australian.

Agassi collected US$654,000 for winning, bringing his career tournament winnings past US$26.3 million. Schuettler collected US$327,000.

Meanwhile, 29 years after winning her first Grand Slam title, Martina Navratilova swept to her 57th on Sunday, collecting the only jewel missing from her crown.

The naturalized American teamed up with India's Leander Paes to win the Australian Open mixed doubles titles, beating Todd Woodbridge and Eleni Daniilidou 6-4 7-5 for the one Grand Slam title to have eluded her.

RP trackfest launching slated today

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain will keynote today the launching ceremonies of the country's hosting of the 15th Asian Athletics Association championships at the Tiara Hotel in Makati City.

A total of 44 countries are expected to take part in the annual tournament, bringing along with them nearly a thousand athletes, coaches and officials to the host nation.

Buhain is expected to announce the PSC's support of the event which athletics chief Go Teng Kok calls a "partnership with the government."

The repair and improvement of track facilities, including the track oval, the grandstand and all other concerns is expected to be outlined by Buhain.

The Philippines takes its third crack at staging the 30-year-old organization founded by the late Patafa president and two-time Philippine Olympic Committee chief Jose Sering. Then known as the Asian Amateur Athletics Association (4As), it held its inaugural meet in Marikina in 1973. With Go Teng Kok taking the Patafa reins in 1991, the Philippines held the sportsfest for the second time in 1993.

Two-time Asia's sprint queen Lydia de Vega-Mercado, now a councilor of Meycauayan, Bulacan, will also attend the event.

Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza has also confirmed his presence through his son Ali, chair of the Manila Sports Council.

PBA broadcast

THE PARALLEL broadcast of the PBA between government stations NBN-4 and IBC-13 is heavily dependent on the decision of the so-called "Group of 6" within the PBA Board of Governors, a reliable source said yesterday.

"We really can't tell. It depends on how the group of six will vote," said the source referring to Sta. Lucia, Red Bull, Shell, FedEx and the influential San Miguel block of Barangay Ginebra and San Miguel Beer.

Purefoods and Coca-Cola, teams acquired by SMC the past two years, are not entitled to cast their votes.

NBN-4, together with its coverage partner IBC-13, hatched the idea of a parallel broadcast, which aims not only to rake in the finances but also to widen the PBA's television market.

Under the proposal, IBC-13 will air the PBA games on a magnitude similar to the coverage done by Studio 23 during the UAAP basketball games last year. *June Navarro*

Lanao netter wins

CEBU—Wilbur Orillano of Tubod, Lanao del Norte, routed Jaggy Simblante, 6-2, 6-0, to reach the semifinals of the boys' 18-under division Saturday in the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and regional workshop here at the Sancase Tennis Club.

Orillano takes on Cebuano Oswaldo Dumoran, who ousted Jason Pinote, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, in the lower bracket, while top seed Janjie Soquino meets Flynn Golosinda following victories past Norman Orito, 7-5, 6-1, and Julianito Lopia, 6-2, 4-6, 4-2 ret., respectively.

Maasin, Leyte, netters Anton Aya-ay, JR Montalbo and Amiel Aya-ay dominated the final four slots in the boys' 12-under with only club netter Bernardine Siso left to defend the local pride in the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and Sport Kids.

Over at the Cogon Tennis Club in Tagbilaran, Bohol, 20 promising youngsters were awarded their outstanding medals by club chair Ben Udtujan during the Milo regional workshop.

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Welcoat guns for sweep

GAMES TODAY *(Pasig Sports Center)*
3 p.m.—LBC vs Blu Detergent (for 3rd)
5 p.m.—Dazz vs Welcoat (championship)

Best-of-five:
Game 1—Welcoat 77, Dazz 68 OT
Game 2—Welcoat 65, Dazz 63

By Dennis Eroa

TO extend the PBL Challenge Cup series, Dazz coach Junel Baculi needs to learn a lesson or two from Blu Detergent mentor Leo Isaac.

Reason? Isaac, while he was still coaching AnaFreezers/Dr. J, overcame Tanduay's 2-0 advantage to win the 1998 Centennial Cup, a league record.

Dazz, whose last-minute collapses are getting to be familiar, trails Welcoat 0-2 in the ongoing series and unless Baculi finds the winning formula, Welcoat will win its fifth title today via sweep.

Gametime is set at 5 p.m. after the LBC-Blu do-or-die match for third place at 3 p. m..

"Sweep is sweet but we'll celebrate only if we win for the third time," said Welcoat mentor Leo Austria.

Curiously, Baculi , former Welcoat mentor, swept Austria's Shark twice in their storied rivalry. Under Baculi, the Paintmasters won all their four titles via sweep.

Austria, of course, exacted revenge by steering Shark to two Challenge Cup plum at the expense of Baculi's Welcoat.

Payback time, said Austria, isn't in his mind "The bottom line is we'll emerge champion whether it is by a sweep or in five games. My team is ready," Austria said.

One to watch

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE POPULAR Ateneo Blue Eagle Enrico Villanueva, who signed a multi-million, three-year contract with Batang Red Bull recently, is the one to watch in this year's Philippine Basketball Association season which gets going on Feb. 23 with the staging of the star-studded All-Filipino Conference.

In a few more days, we will know him, respect him even. And as far as people are concerned, the 6-foot-5, 22-year-old Villanueva is set for future glory in the pro league, destined to become one of its superstars because of his admirable attitude, skill and talent. "He is a fast learner," said coach Yeng Guiao in an interview. "He works hard during practice and stays focused. *Masipag*."

Villanueva, who will play the No. 4 position (power forward), represents a new generation of clean, hard-working and determined players. He is indeed one of a kind, a source of pride and fascination to the Photokina franchise owned by much admired sportsman-businessman George Chua.

In the amateur ranks, Villanueva's multipronged credentials made him ready for the tough task ahead in the PBA. Aside from being named best amateur cager of 2002 by the Philippine Sportswriters Association, he also won the MVP Award of the UAAP for helping Ateneo win the UAAP title. In the Philippine Basketball League, Villanueva spearheaded the Ateneo-Happee-Negros Navigation team to victory in the Chairman's Cup, en route to winning three different MVP awards—the PBL MVP, the Finals MVP and PBL Press Corps MVP.

***

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CARTER
15
MO GAME
mo jimmys
mo: a slang term for /more/
jimmys: a jump shot. example: that kid's jimmy is smooth.

mo cookies
mo: a slang term for /more/
cookies: used in reference to stealing a basketball. example: he stole his cookies!

mo dimes
mo: a slang term for /more/
dimes: an american coin with a value of ten pennies that in the context of basketball means an assist. example: did you see that pass? he dropped a dime.

mo shakes
mo: a slang term for /more/
shakes: the result of several basketball moves and fakes by a dribbling offensive player which has caused a defender to try to go into more than one direction at the same time.

mo boom
mo: a slang term for /more/
boom: a powerful, loud, and emphatic dunk shot. example: i boomed on you, man!

mo cleaning glass
mo: a slang term for /more/
cleaning glass: to rebound a basketball. originated due to the fact most backboards are made of plexiglas, and many players use big swiping motions to gather rebounds.

mo game
mo: a slang term for /more/
game: what a multi-skilled player has when he wears the nike shox vcII. its full-length shox technology provides the responsive energy you need to shake, shoot jimmys, steal cookies, drop dimes, boom and clean glass.

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Super Bowl

SAN DIEGO—The Oakland Raiders and Tampa Bay Buccaneers put the final touches on their Super Bowl preparations on Saturday, as America's biggest party moved into high gear.

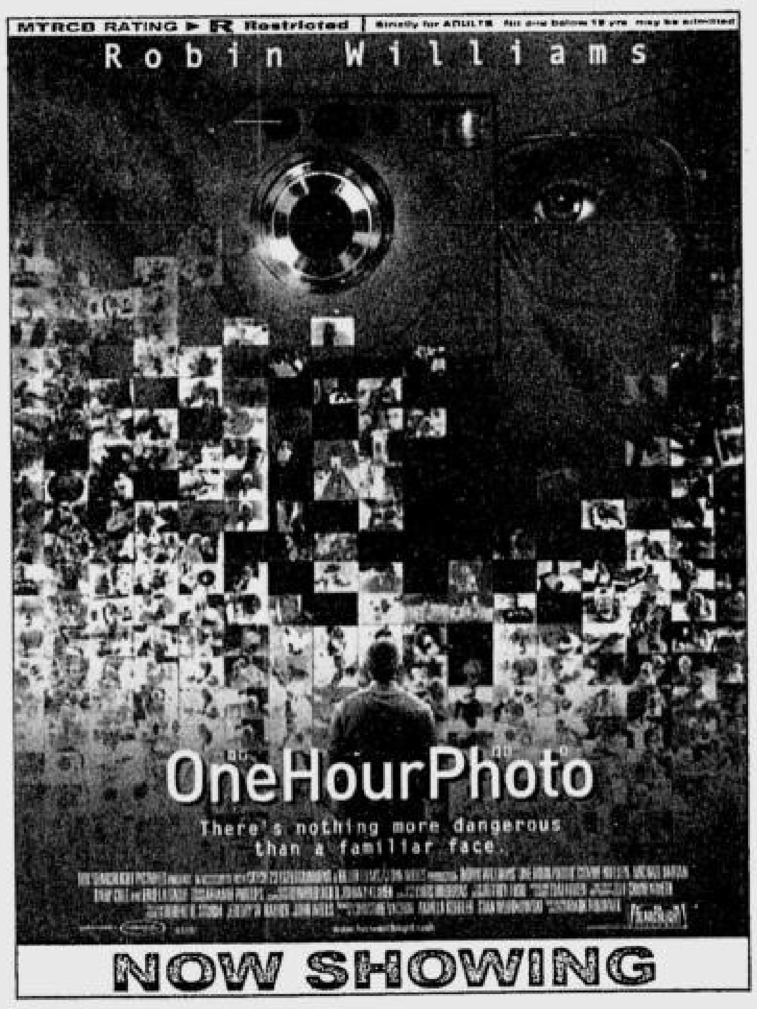
While Oakland and Tampa Bay were holding low-key walk-through practices thousands of fans from both teams were starting to flood into San Diego's Gaslamp entertainment district for a night of revelry.

After a week of intense hype, unrelenting questioning and scrutiny from 3,500 accredited media, the two teams will spend a quiet night cloistered away at hotels far away from the raucous partying.

The NFC champion Buccaneers will wake up on Sunday as four-point underdogs to the AFC champion Raiders but a confident Tampa coach Jon Gruden declared his team ready. *Reuters*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, RP Tecnogas beat Hong Kong's Casino Cigarets, 100-95, to capture the first Goyu Cup invitational basketball championship at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.



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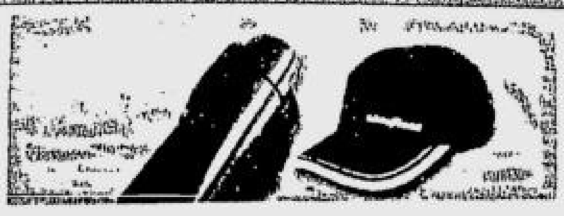

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Samsung Interschool tilt set

CONSIDERED the missing link in the search for better pros and amateurs, the National Interscholastics Golf Tournament will be revived next month with the corporate backing of Samsung paving the way for its long-awaited return.

The Samsung Interscholastics will be held at the Villamor Golf Club in the third week of February with about 20 of the biggest schools in Metro Manila already confirming their participation in the college, high school and elementary levels.

In a recent organizational meeting among team captains, Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain gave his nod to the revival project, saying athletes need a continuing cycle of events to be able to maximize their full potential.

"The Interscholastics is something we really need and a boost to talent development. It ensures a steady turnover of talents from grade school, then to high school and college," Buhain said.

Buhain also extolled Samsung for its unwavering support for golf and local sports as a whole: "The support of Samsung is reviving the trust and confidence of business community in supporting local sports."

For his part, Sang Youl Eom, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines, expressed hopes that their sponsorship will lead to something bigger for young Filipino golfers. "Samsung will be always be there to help in the search for a Filipino Tiger Woods or Se Ri Pak. While the Interscholastics will give them the chance to fight for school pride, we hope to see them carry the Philippine flag in competitions abroad in the future."

Among those who attended the initial meeting were Rudy Samson and Junie Ledesma of the Federation of Golf Clubs, new Jungolf president Gerry Handog, Jun Dalandan and Jay Arañas, Joseph Evaristo and Buddy de Joya of La Salle and Frank Borromeo of the Poveda Learning Center.

Ateneo and La Salle teams make up the bulk of the early entries. Teams from Xavier, OB Montessori, Colegio de San Agustin, Southville International School, Chang Kai Shek and Sto. Nino Learning Center are also expected to join.

For inquires, please call the Professional Sports Management Group at 6711082 or cell 09178381874. Teams will be competing under the four-to-play, three-to-count format using the Stableford System of Scoring. Players will be teeing off from different tees depending on their age-group.

The Interscholastics is part of the Samsung DigitAll Challenge which also includes the Samsung Putting Challenge set to end on Feb. 1 at Wack Wack and the Samsung Amateur Tour.

BUHAIN (seated center), Eom and PSMG head Boy Blue Ocampo join hands for the cause of golf talent development. Looking on are, standing from left, Frank Borromeo, Gerry Handog, Jun Dalandan, Frank Evaristo, Rudy Samson, Jay Arañas and Buddy de Joya.

RP entries joint champions

THREE Philippine entries scored seven points Saturday morning to emerge joint champions of the 2003 World Slasher 8-Cock Derby at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum.

R&B Farm Binangonan I of Claude Bautista (combined with Ito Yñares), Gold Cup Jed and Joy of William Go and Jade LCC of Pol Estrellado and Manny Santos shared the championship by outclassing their American counterparts to win the first leg of the two-leg World Slasher Derby organized by the National Cockers Association.

Tigers rule Ibank-Xavier Match Play at Sta. Elena

THE TIGERS banked on the heroics of Greg Yu to pull off a dramatic victory in the second IBank-Xavier Match Play Tournament competition recently at the Sta. Elena Golf Club course in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Yu buried a 15-foot putt for par to beat low-handicapper Herbert Chan of the heavily favored CK quad, who made a three-putt error in the better-ball format concluding the match, and lift the Tigers to a 5.5-3.5 victory.

Yu's close win secured the victory for the underrated Tigers in the two-stage tournament with a format inspired by the renowned Ryder Cup.

The major sponsors are Heritage Park, Toyota Shaw, Hongkong Shanghai Bank, Deco Centrum, Discovery Spa, Eva Air, Goodyear Tires, Ben Line Agencies, Republic Powdercoat, Stanwood, Fuji/G.E., PLDT, Pharaoh KTV. Eva Air staked a trip to the United States as a hole-in-one prize but nobody won.

Minor sponsors are Tan&Venturanza Law Offices, Akiga Restaurant, Four Arrows Marketing, Quik Snack, Burlington Socks, Steintek, Copper Trading, Popeye Chicken, Jag Jeans, Fuji-Haya, Oriental Tin, and other individuals who donated in a personal capacity.

Organized by the Xavier '72 Dragons to benefit the Xavier School Educational and Trust Fund, the PGH Indigent Patient Fund and Notre Dame de Vie, the tournament saw the Dragons claiming third place and erstwhile defending champion Standwood 80s bringing up the rear.

The four teams played nine different formats: singles, international scramble, 18-hole gross medal, cumulative, four-ball, four-some, regular scramble and high-low.

Mayorga wrests crown

TEMECULA, California—Ricardo Mayorga beat previously unbeaten American Vernon Forrest in the third round to capture the World Boxing Council welterweight belt in a unification bout here on Saturday.

Referee Marty Deakin stopped the bout after Mayorga floored Forrest with an overhand right two minutes and six seconds into the third round.

The 29-year-old Nicaraguan came out from the opening bell throwing everything he had at Forrest, knocking the former 147-pound WBC champ down in the first round. *AFP*

4-cock derby slated

MEMBERS of the United Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap), Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association and provincial derby champions are giving their all-out support to lawyer Mario Antonio, who will host the "Invictus 4-Cock Derby" at Mandaluyong Coliseum tomorrow (Jan. 28).

The sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer Dewormer, Sagupaan Mite Free, Complexor 3000 and Lakpue Drug Inc.

Entries must be submitted today, Monday, Jan. 27, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For details, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

Antonio, a veteran cocker-sportsman, is one of the most respected derbyists in the national cockfighting circuit.

Meanwhile, 25 sure entries are already listed in the upcoming "One Day 5-Cock Derby" on Thursday, Jan. 30. Vic Boy Group will host the derby.

Feb. 4 and 6 is the "4th Ucap/Bumble Bee Balbina/Pandor Magic 7-Cock Derby" to be hosted by former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and Maj. Bobby Doromal.

Roligon meet stakes ₱1M

A JACKPOT prize of P1 million is being guaranteed by derby host Rolly Ligon in connection with Roligon Mega Cockpit's 13th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby on Feb. 4 and 6. Entry fee is only P8,800.

The champion with the fastest winning time will get a brand-new Honda motorcycle as bonus. Every participant will be allowed to participate in the raffle and may win any of the following prizes: color TV, DVD player, stereo, VCD, gas stove, rice cooker, electric fans, flat irons and other prizes.

``Everybody will go home with an anniversary gift. *Depende sa mabubunot*," said Ligon, who successfully hosted the 97-entry Noche Buena Derby last month.

Meanwhile, the new schedule of hackfights and 2-cock *ulutan* at Roligon is every Saturday and Sunday beginning on Feb. 1 and 2.

Slated on Feb. 1 is a 2-cock *ulutan* to be hosted by Danny Sanots and Piyez Group. Each champion will get P7,000. Registration fee is P1,000.

For details, please contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

NBA RESULTS

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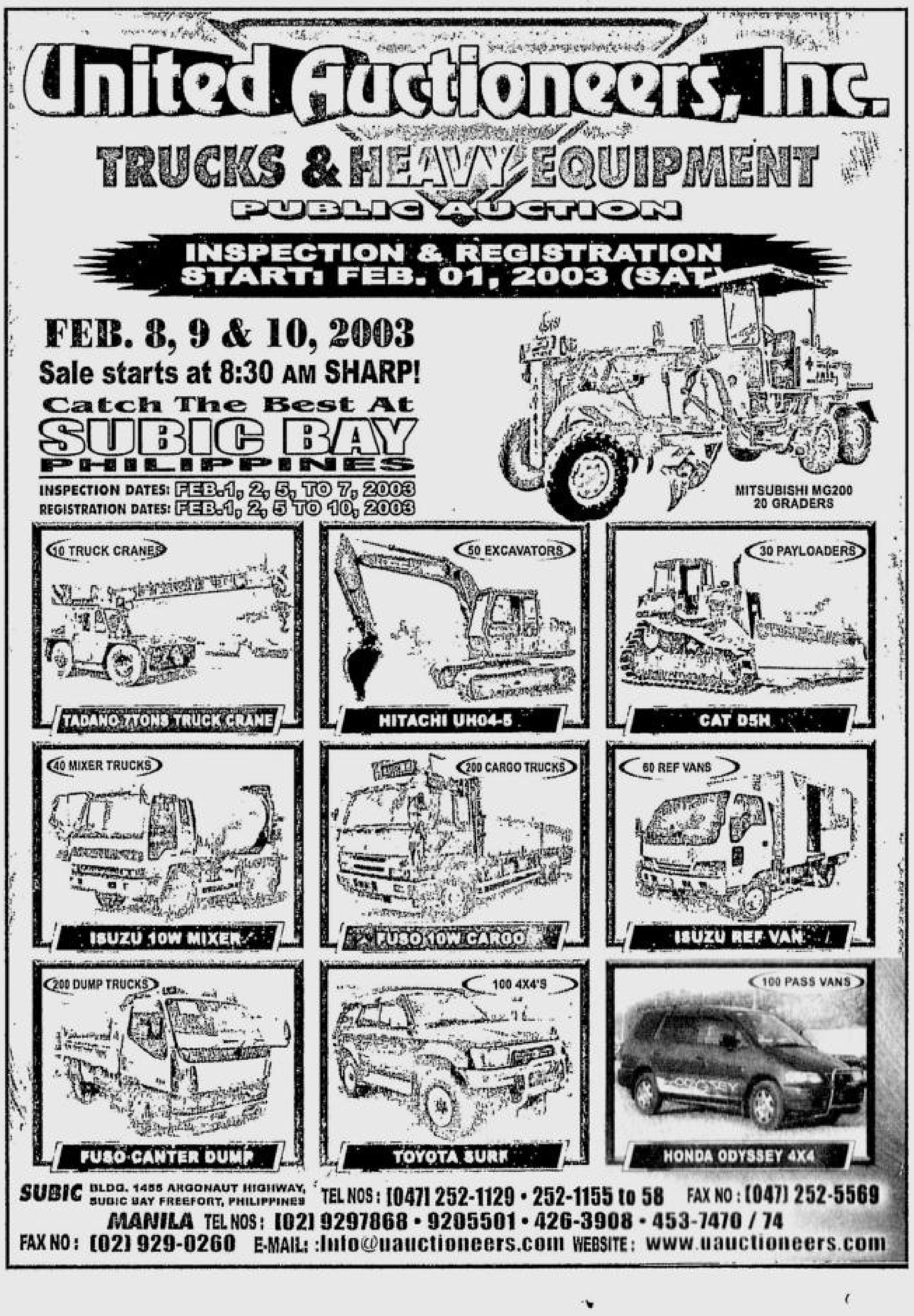

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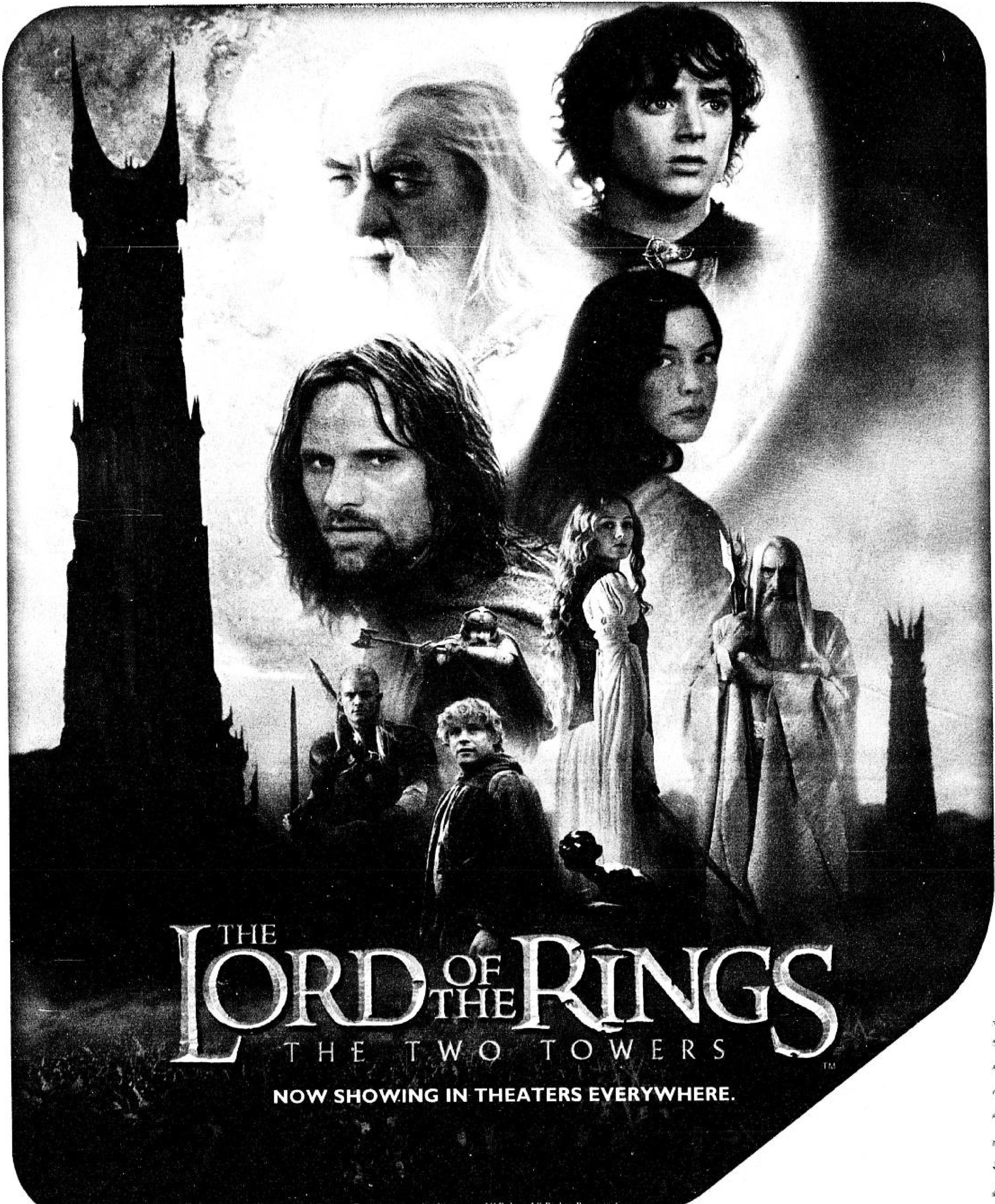
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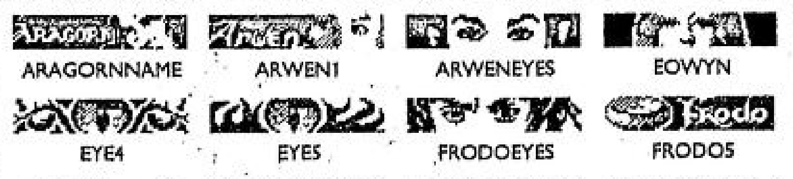
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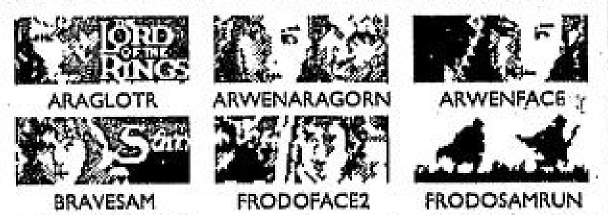
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Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Businessman killed

TRADER Eduardo Barroga, 46, was killed before dawn yesterday after he tried to stop two unruly men from forcing their way into a videoke bar in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Barroga, of 1114 Rizal Avenue, near Lope De Vega Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila, died due to a stab wound. Police arrested one of the suspects, Manolito P. Isip, 35, alias Coycoy, of 1017 P. Guevarra St., Sta. Cruz, Manila. *P. Tubeza*

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TERRORRIST THREAT

They could shoot down planes from the shanties

By Christian V. Esguerra

IT'S a terrorist's dream lair.

Residents of a posh Parañaque village, up in arms over the danger posed by a nearby squatter community, are fearful that terrorists could easily position themselves in any of the shanties hobbled around the perimeter of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and shoot down an approaching airplane.

Foreign and local aircraft pass directly over the slum area.

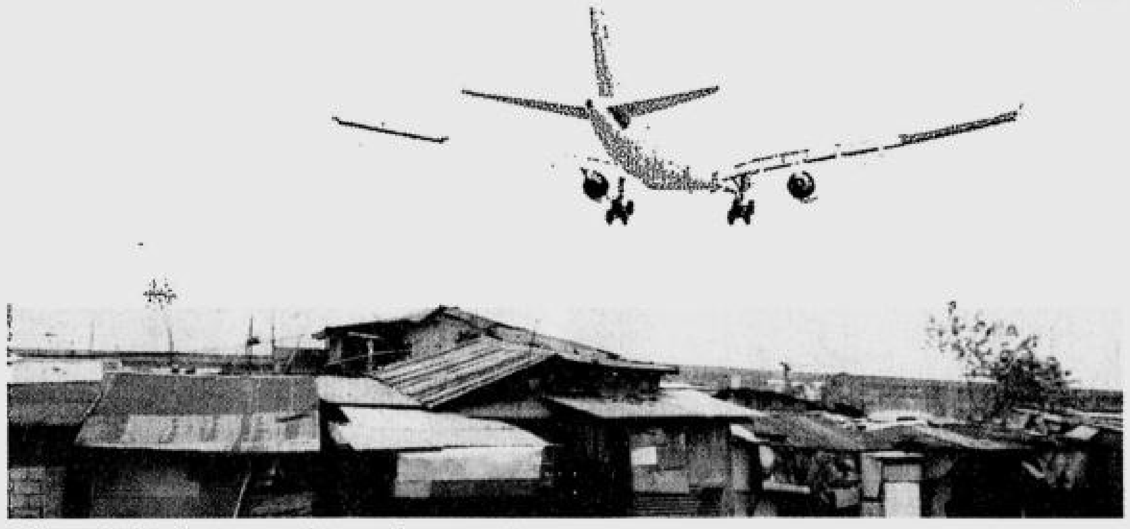
The community of at least 1,000 squatters is located over a creek just behind the fence of the Multinational Village where airplanes pass by to make their final approach to the landing strip, said village manager Dave Tuano.

Nothing could be more ideal for any terrorist group planning to sow terror here, villagers explained, noting the shanties directly under the path of approaching airplanes could openly serve as a launching place for a a terror strike.

"We know our fear is neither farfetched nor exaggerated. It could really happen," Tubano told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Romy Lopez, a director of the homeowners' association, said the squatters have been clogging the creek and violating airport security require-

THEY/ A26


AN open invitation to terrorists are these squatter shanties from where they could launch attacks on incoming airplanes.

- FOURTH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES A26
- RP hospitality hailed; local media cry foul A26
- No untoward incident, say police A26

Who are Kamandag, Barbie, Ranger, Apple, Bong, Pogi?

By Alcuin Papa

THE VAN that yielded the bodies of four alleged salvage victims last week had been seen entering and exiting Camp Karingal, headquarters of the Central Police District.

A CPD source said the Mitsubishi L-300 van had been seen inside the camp being driven by one of the six policemen suspected of having slain the victims.

The van, the source said, had been carnapped but was being used by six policemen who go under code names Kamandag, Barbie, Ranger, Apple, Bong and Pogi.

The victims were later identified by their relatives as Angelito Nabong, 25, a former security guard; Crisanto Fidellaga, 30, a house painter; Cristituto Carsido, 25; and a certain Allan, reportedly a police asset.

Evelyn Nabong had identified his father's body while Lilia Dangalan positively identified his son-in-law Fidellaga. Carsido's wife, who refused to give her name, also claimed his body.

Carsido's wife had admitted that her husband was indeed a pickpocket. She also said the six policemen were her husband's protectors. The six cops are reportedly assigned to Camp Karingal.

Allan was said to have fetched the three others from their respective houses last Tuesday. The next day, their bodies were found one on top of the other inside the van parked at the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue.

The van is said to be seen frequently in the Barangay Gulod area. The four victims are said to be from San Ignacio Street, Villa Real, Barangay Gulod.

Central Police District director Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro has ordered an investigation into the allegations that six Quezon City policemen were involved in the killing of the four men.

Relatives of the victims also said they suspect policemen had rubbed out their kin.

Senior Insp..Rodolfo Jaraza of the CPD's Intelligence Unit said the four victims have records with the CPD as petty criminals.

NHI: Nobody can touch Bonifacio at Monumento

By Tina Santos

THE BONIFACIO Monument in Caloocan City

CALOOCAN City Mayor Rey Malonzo's insistence to transfer richly historic Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City from where it stands has finally come to an end.

This came after the National Historical Institute issued a resolution declaring the 45-foot high obelisk as a national monument.

Any plans to touch the monument would be unlawful, according to NHI Chair Ambeth Ocampo who came out with Resolution No. 9, series of 2002 which was signed by members Serafin Quiason and Heidi Gloria, National Museum director Corazon Alvina and Prudencia Cruz, director of the National Library.

By virtue of the powers vested in it by Presidential Decree No. 260, the NHI officials formally passed last Aug. 14, 2002 the resolution that declared the historic Bonifacio Monument and its immediate surroundings a national monument.

The NHI's pronouncement came after the monument was hounded by controversy as politicians and city government officials, led by Malonzo and claiming the monument no longer served its purpose, pushed for its transfer preferably in Tala (in Caloocan North).

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Response to fire claim complaint

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IT'S FUNNY but this column, of late, has started to look and sound like a postal service board. Or, worse, like a clerk of court.

We had to cater to the requests of friends who felt they had been oppressed. Naturally, those accused also have the right to a valid response.

Here's a rejoinder to that complaint from Cebu about the indefinite delay in the payment of fire insurance claim.

***

Your column issue of January 17 and 22, 2003 in the Philippine Daily Inquirer in respect to the fire insurance claim of Gamallosons Traders Company Inc. against our company will bear reference.

While we understand and respect the views and position of Gamallosons Traders Company Inc., as espoused by Atty. Manuel Oyson Jr., who has caused the' ventilation of his grievance on the service of the claim through your column and similar avenues of the media in the past, we cannot help but view his actions with deep concern and more importantly in unwarrantly dragging the Office of the Insurance Commission in the process.

For your kind information, up to the time of this writing, C/INSP Oscar M. Mayol, the Fire Marshall of Mandaue City has not issued a certification as to the clear and precise cause of the fire. There is no documentation to this effect on hand. We were informed that the Fire Marshall will only issue his certification, as to the exact cause of the fire, when ordered by a competent Court to do so invoking the alleged mandate of the Fire Code (PD 1185). We dispute that assertion and our experience with other Fire Marshalls in the past fire claims we have encountered. Moreover, the Standard Operating Procedure No. 9, paragraph 5-2 quoted in the the Mandaue City report dated January 20, 2003 (a copy of which was not furnished this insurer) explicitly bans PC/Police/Fire Investigation units from furnishing copies of Fire Investigation Report (FIR's) to insurance adjusters. Clearly, the ban covers insurance adjusters, NOT the insured or the insurance company concerned. We consider the generalization made by the Fire Marshall of Mandaue City in this instant claim as suspicious in character. This vital document, which has been denied Insurers, will form the very basis of whether the fire loss is compensable under the terms and conditions of the Claimant's Fire Policy.

On account of this obvious non-cooperation by the Mandaue City Fire Marshall our evaluation of this claim has been hampered.

***

We wish to stress that unless a competent government body issues an investigation report and certification as to the exact cause of the fire which resulted in the insured property becoming a total loss, this claim will continue to be delayed in processing.

What we are establishing here in this instance, is and under a basic principle of insurance, which is the principle of proximate cause of the loss.

Mr. Oyson has been ventilating his cause/claim before media. We respect media and its practitioners and its being vocal about certain issues. However, at this time, pending the complete evaluation of documents to determine our liability on this policy, we regret to inform that the claim could not be processed. It is also important to inform everyone that at this point in time the Insurance Adjuster handling this claim has not even recommended the setting of this claim.

Mr. Oyson/Gamallosons Traders Co. Inc. feel aggrieved. This is understandable. However, we believe he should not seek redress and gain sympathy and reactions from the public. We ask that, why he, as a lawyer and with a Law Office has not filed a case in court to resolve the issues of the claim and compensate the claimant. Is Mr. Oyson seeking redress via the media because his claim may not have sufficient basis to stand on? We are just curious.

Thank you and more power to you and to the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Mars Lopez

President, Great Domestic Insurance Company of the Philippines

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

RP hospitality hailed; local media cry foul

By Armand N. Nocum

THE FIVE-DAY Fourth World Meeting of Families (FWMF) ended with many of the 479 foreign delegates expressing deep admiration for Filipino hospitality.

But local reporters and photographers covering the event did not share the visitors' sentiments. They accused organizers of favoring foreign journalists over Filipino media workers.

The Mass that was supposed to end the meeting was characterized by reporters almost coming to blows, shouting matches and shredding of FWMF-issued media identification cards.

Many of the local print, radio and television reporters were angered when civilian volunteers prevented them from going near the front of the Quirino Grandstand at the Rizal Park during Saturday's live telecast address of Pope John Paul II and the concluding Mass early Sunday morning.

Tempers flared when civilian marshals pushed reporters trying to get into press areas that were reserved for the foreign press, radio reporters of the Manila Archdiocese-run Radio Veritas, and GMA Television, the official station covering the event.

Asked to explain their policy, marshal Sunny Fragrante replied: "I'm sorry, the ambassador (FWMF executive director Henrietta de Villa) and (Auxiliary) Bishop Villegas gave explicit orders for us to allow only the foreign photographers and the GMA crew."

Told about this, Villegas vehemently denied doing so. "Do you think I will give that order? It's not in the policy of the secretariat. I don't know were such instructions came from," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Villegas said he was "hurt" by such accusations. "I'm looking into it. There must have been overzealous marshals."

"It is very bad that the end of a beautiful event—a miracle for the Philippines—was marred by these misunderstandings," said De Villa, who also denied giving orders to stop local mediamen from going near the stage.

In a telephone interview with the INQUIRER, De Villa said the media fiasco spoiled the "good feeling of delegates for the whole event."

Marshal Dindin E. Urquiaga told the INQUIRER before the Mass started, "We are going to get physical with you if you insist on coming in. We are under strict orders from the Ambassador (De Villa) to allow only GMA reporters inside."

Antonio Calizar of radio dzRV and PDI photographer Jim Guiao Punzalan also had an encounter with Urquiaga Saturday night.

Fr. Lito Jopson, vice chair of the event's media bureau, justified the policy, saying the foreign reporters were those covering the Vatican.

But local reporters and photographers were not amused.

"Are we being discriminated against in our own land, when we are the host of this family event? Why give us identification cards that are not being recognized as valid," said a television reporter.

Photojournalist Bullit Marquez was seen crumpling his media access card in front of the event's coordinators.

A VISIBLY delighted Cardinal Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, Papal Legate of John Paul II, receives a Key to the City of Manila from Mayor Lito Atienza. looking on are Nuncio Cardinal Antonio Franco (right) and Monsignor Hernando Coronel (left) of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

They could shoot down...

From page A25

ments for at least 20 years now.

Worse, hundreds of tricycles have been using as illegal terminal the area separating the Multinational Village's access road and the airport, he added.

Tubano said there are at least two tricycle associations using the area for illegal parking.

"I don't know if there's any other airport anywhere in the world that has hundreds of squatters and tricycles dangerously located in its vicinity," Lopez said.

Village residents claimed they had brought up the matter with airport general manager Edgardo Manda and Interior Secretary Jose Lina as early as February last year.

No relevant action has been taken so far, the villagers said.

No untoward incident, say police

By Philip C. Tubeza

MORE than a million people attended the three-hour closing Mass of the 4th World Meeting of Families in Rizal Park yesterday morning, police said.

Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, Manila police chief, said there were no major untoward incident despite the large turnout for the Mass, which was attended by former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, and Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Bulaong said that the already large crowd in the park on Saturday afternoon even grew bigger around midnight with the arrival of El Shaddai members.

The members of the Catholic charismatic group held a candlelight march all the way from the Philippine International Convention Center grounds to Luneta, where they held an early morning service.

The closing Mass, led by papal legate Alfonso Cardinal Lopez Trujillo, began at around 7 a.m.

The orchestra and the choir had to play and sing the opening song again and again due to the long line of bishops, archbishops, and cardinals that marched up the stage.

A statue of the Sto. Niño was also enthroned first before the Mass could be completed.

The crowd broke into applause several times, especially when Trujillo, a Colombian, greeted and blessed the large crowd in Filipino.

Cop killed, 4 others wounded in Calamba

A POLICE raid yesterday on a gangland hideout in Calamba left one officer dead and four of his companions wounded.

The police team was met with a hail of bullets as they sought to serve arrest warrants on members of the notorious Tolentino-Galicia gang, wanted for a string of criminal activities.

The encounter took place at about 6 a.m., in Barangay Puting Lupa, Calamba City at the foot of Mt. Makiling.

Calamba City police chief Senior Supt. Generoso Calderon said combined operatives from the Southern Tagalog Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division led by Senior Supt. Jesus Cachuela, Laguna Provincial Police Office headed by Supt. Carlos Aguilar and Regional Mobile Group went to the place to serve warrants on Jarencio Tolentino, leader of the syndicate, and his men who were wanted for a series of highway robbery-holdup, hijacking, murder and illegal drug trafficking.

Calderon said the group had been under surveillance for months.

Apparently, the five gang members who were at their safehouse when the police officers came. The police team was immediately met with a volley of gunfire, hitting SPO1 Rodrigo Bundalian, SPO1 Numer Tapic, PO1 Joey Carlson, SPO4 David Laresa and SPO Jesus Ranada.

Bundalian later died in a hospital and his body brought to the Seneres Funeral Homes in Calamba City.

The wounded police officers were treated at the Calamba Medical Center.

Tolentino's group was able to escape from the scene of the encounter where there are only two houses.

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Calabarzon police director, who went to the scene of the encounter at 2:30 p.m., said police were able to recover empty shells of AK rifle, hand grenades, four long M16 magazines, two short M16 magazines, camouflage uniforms used in the criminal activities of the group whose members often introduced themselves as military or police members.

Floreno G. Solmirano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, January 27, 2003
3rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Heb 9:15, 24-28
Gospel:	Mk 3:22-30

The teachers of the Law who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul: the chief of the demons helps him to drive out demons."

Jesus called them to him and began teaching them by means of stories or parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a nation is divided by civil war, that nation cannot stand. If a family divides itself into groups, that family will not survive. In the same way, if Satan has risen against himself and is divided, he will not stand; he is finished. No one can break into the house of the Strong one in order to plunder his goods, unless he first ties up the Strong one. Then indeed, he can plunder his house.

"Truly, I say to you, every sin will be forgiven humankind, even insults to God, however numerous. But whoever slanders the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven: he carries the guilt of his sin forever."

This was their sin when they said, "He has an evil spirit in him."

Commentary

In a sense, from what we have seen in the previous days of Jesus' way of doing things, one should not be surprised that his family thought that he had gone mad and the Pharisees claimed that he was possessed by the evil spirit of Beelzebul. He was living the insecure life of an itinerant preacher, instead of holding on to a good steady job in Nazareth. He had gathered a strange group of men around him, and had welcomed even stranger dinner companions, most of whom were not the kind of people decent Jews associated. He was on a collision course with the powerful religious leaders of his time, challenging them, making mortal enemies. He had thrown away security, safety, and reputation. According to the world's standards, he certainly seemed insane, possessed-or at least, as Gerard O Collins, the Australian theologian has suggested, something of a clown. Which suggests that if there is too much sanity in our lives, if all is too safe and secure, balanced and moderate, perhaps we are not truly following the Lord.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE/CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Distinction between confession and admission—Appellant Tizon, Jr.,'s statements are merely an admission, not a confession. A confession, as distinguished from an admission, is a declaration made at any time by a person voluntarily, without compulsion or inducement, stating or acknowledging that he has committed or participated in the commission of a crime. The term admission, on the other hand, is usually applied in criminal cases to statements of fact by the accused which do not directly involve an acknowledgment of the guilt of the accused or of criminal intent to commit the offense with which he is charged. Tizon, Jr.'s statement does not acknowledge that he committed, or participated in, the killing or rape of the victim, only that he was present at the scene of the crime. On the other hand, the statements of appellants Crisostomo, Ubag and Ladrillo are indeed confessions for they admitted to raping and abetting the rape of the victim. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, People v. Tizon, Jr., G. R. No. 133228-31, July 30, 2002]

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Kilabot ng mga Kriminal! Magbabalik na!

35 families lose homes in demolition

By Clarice Colting,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—At least 35 more families were rendered homeless as a result of squatter demolition in Barangay Pulong Sta Cruz in Sta. Rosa last week.

Thirty people were severely hurt in the demolition that took place Thursday after negotiations between barangay leaders and lawyers of Andasol Finance Corp. failed. The firm has claimed ownership of the lots occupied by the residents.

The firm's lawyer Garney Candelaria, along with Colonel Alfredo Marudo and Sheriff Arnel Magat had negotiated with the residents telling them to leave, as their houses will be demolished.

But residents ignored the plea, maintaining that their homes stand on government property. The government had supposedly planned an irrigation project in the property.

Negotiations lasted only for 30 minutes, prompting the lawyers to call in the demolition crew—50 members of the demolition team, 30 Philippine National Police—Sta. Rosa and 10 elements of Special Action Force led by Police Supt. Danilo Castro.

The residents tried to prevent it by putting up barricades before their houses, only to be broken up by dispersal operation a few minutes later.

At least 30 people suffered wounds, swollen arms and legs, bruises and contusions. Some of them were reportedly grabbed on the neck.

"The policemen and SAF forced to break in our houses and destroyed even our furniture. They even fired numerous shots through our houses' ceilings," a resident said.

Three SAF members were reportedly drunk during the dispersal operation and showed no concern whether they were hurting women and minors, another resident said.

Nine women were arrested amidst the commotion. They later complained the that they were bodily carried by the policemen before they were thrown into the police mobile car.

These women were identified as Melita Carvajal, Maricris Sales, Cristal Gonzales, Ruth Maurillo, Emily Forbes, Cristina Bautista, Ester Duarte, Evelyn Mangga and Jenifer Barrera, all Barangay Pulong Sta. Cruz residents.

Sales and Gonzales are both 15 years old.

They were detained at Sta. Rosa Municipal Jail.

They were charged with resistance and disrespect for persons of authority, supposedly because residents refused to give-up their houses and because they put out the barricade that allegedly caused heavy traffic along the national road.

But the tussle between residents and the policemen didn't end there. Another one took place at night on the same day.

Accompanied by members of urban poor group Kadamay-ST and human rights group Karapatan-Laguna, relatives of the women went to the Sta. Rosa Municipal Jail to gather facts and testimonies from detainees for possible incidents of human rights violation.

Around 7:00 p.m., Superintendent Danilo Castro showed up in the police station with around 20 policemen, ordering the women's relatives to leave. He ignored requests of Leng Jucutan, general secretary of Kadamay-ST, to negotiate the release of the women.

Jucutan was reportedly told that Castro was not interested to discuss further with the activists. But this did not stop Jucutan from reiterating the group's demand to stay longer so that the relatives could be assured of the detainees' safety given that two of these detainees were minors, and the rest were women.

Fuming, Castro ordered policemen to grab the flags and banners of Kadamay-St and Karapatan-Laguna, triggering a screaming match between policemen and the Kadamay leaders.

A Kadamay member alleged that Castro was drunk. The officer assailed, without any provocation, Kadamay member Ogie Dino, who refused to give away the group's flag.

Castro finally stopped only after his men grabbed another resident later identified as Jerry Mangga, a husband of one of the women detainees.

Jucutan said Kadamy-ST and Karapatan-Laguna documented at least 20 incidents of human rights violation, ranging from physical harassments and destruction of property. These organizations have plans to file criminal charges against alleged perpetrators, SAF and PNP, he said,

Since the first demolition last October 22, the residents have not received any word about a relocation site, neither from the firm nor form the government. Previous demolitions have affected 400 families.

Sta Cruz Mayor Leon Arcillas has refused to talk with the residents, a Kadamay leader said.

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8 HALF PAST DEAD

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2 SWIMFAN
3 HOT CHICK
4 KERIDA
5 THE RING (US VERSION)
6 LORD OF THE RINGS II

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1 LORD OF THE RINGS II
2 THE RING (US VERSION)
3 HOT CHICK]
4 ANALYZE THAT
5 ONE HOUR PHOTO
6 TRY SEVENTEEN

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1 LORD OF THE RINGS II
2 THE RING (US VERSION)
3 8 MILE
4 BANGKERO
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2 8 MILE
3 HALF PAST DEAD
4 SWIMFAN
5 BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF
6 LAPU-LAPU

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1 THE RING (US VERSION)
2 HALF PAST DEAD
3 MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING
4 UNFAITHFUL CONCUVINE
5 DOUBLE SEDUCTION
6 KERIDA

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Marriage has been a blessing to Dingdong

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

DINGDONG Avanzado babbles about his marriage with singer-actress **Jessa Zaragoza**, the arrival of their first baby, his impending fatherhood and the joys of married life.

On March 18, Dingdong will mark the second anniversary of his wedding to Jessa. What excites him even more is that they are now awaiting the birth of their first baby in May.

"Jessa is now four and a half months pregnant," Dingdong shares. "By the end of January, we will know the baby's gender. The first time she had an ultra-sound test, it was hair-raising for me to see the baby move. I was teary-eyed. And to feel I was part of that life inside her womb was even more unbelievable."

Dingdong attests marriage has been a blessing to him.

"To have a family is what I longed for all my life," he says. "I believe Jessa came at the right time in my life and I'd like to think I came at the right time in her life, too. I will never find someone like her again.

"I know Jessa was the right one because she has the characteristics I was looking for in a girl. I know she can take care of a home. I woke up one day telling myself I cannot live without her."

Dingdong proposed marriage to Jessa in June 2000, when he brought her to the States for the first time. They were in Lake Tahoe.

After two years of blissful married life, the 35-year-old Dingdong admits he is now more responsible. Jessa, who's 11 years his junior, is turning 24 on Jan. 31.

"I learned it is important for a couple to know the responsibilities in a relationship before taking the plunge," he asserts. "Perhaps that's the reason most marriages don't work out. We feel bad when we hear about show biz couples who break up."

IDEAL BALANCE. Dingdong Avanzado maintains a happy married life and a busy career.

Yet, just like other couples, Dingdong admits he and Jessa also have their share of misunderstanding and petty fights.

"We're not perfect," he says. "We're only humans. We have differences, but after two years of being together, we've learned to make our differences evolve into discussions.

"Jessa used to be feisty. But now, she has mellowed. I know she's been making an effort to change her attitude."

For every minor or major decision that they have to make, whether for their marriage or their respective careers, Dingdong and Jessa seek each other's approval. The couple even agreed at the right time to have a baby and start a family.

"When we felt it was time for Jessa to get pregnant, we started working at it," Dingdong says. "After our vacation in the US and Japan, she got pregnant."

The initial plan was for Jessa to give birth in San Francisco, where some members of Dingdong's family are based.

"But she doesn't want to be away from me for a long time," Dingdong says of his wife. "She knows I cannot be with her the whole time because I have work here, so we both decided it is best for her to give birth in Manila. She will deliver the baby at Cardinal Santos Hospital."

Dingdong expresses his desire to have only two children.

"My aim is to be a loving father to my kids and a good husband to Jessa," he says.

Dingdong doesn't hide the fact that he has a love child from a previous relationship with a non-show biz girl. The boy, **Rafael**, is now 10 and is a fourth grade student at St. Vincent's School in Quezon City.

MARRIAGE / A30

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Echoes of the Heart
Celebrates its 8th Anniversary On February 14, 2003
DWIZ 882 kHz
MONDAY - FRIDAY 2:30 - 3:00 PM
SATURDAY 2:00 - 4:00 PM

FEB. 15 * 9:00 AM - PAINTING CONTEST FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN
Paint the Echoes of the Heart

3 Categories for ONLY 24 Contestants
Category A: 8-Parent & Child Category w/ Child's Story by Parent: 9 yrs. Old & below w/ parent (1st/2nd/3rd prize)
Category B: 8-Junior Category w/ Child's Story by Parent 10-15 yrs old w/o parent (1st/2nd/3rd prize)
Category C: 8- Senior Categories w/ Child Written by the Parent 16 yrs old & above w/o parent (1st/2nd/3rd prize)
Plus: Best Story of the Child Written by the parent All Parents of the participants (1-Special Prize)

Entries will be judged based on the following criteria:
a) Creativity & Expression (Design, Color & Materials used) 25%
b) Attitude & Enthusiasm of the Child (Emotional Involvement) 25%
c) Uniqueness & Originality (The Whole Picture) 25%
d) Appeal (Audience Impact) 25%

Prizes:
a) 3 - Frist Prizes for every Category P 7,000.00 each
b) 3 -Second Prizes for every Category P 5,000.00 each
c) 3 -Third Prizes for every Category P 3,000.00 each
d) 1 - Special Prize for BEST CHILD's STORY by Parent P 4,000.00 each
e) Love Gifts for all Participants

Optional;
50% of any sold painting at any varied price goes to the child / artist and 50% goes to the Beneficiary: Oasis of Love Catholic Charismatic Community: Oasis of Love Bldg. #1785 E Rodriguez Ave. Cubao, QC. T&F 7238634 / 4486971 (Bro. Rez Cortez)

How to Join:
1) Visit DWIZ and look for Ms. Fe Dela Cruz : Monday to Friday from 2:30 - 3:00 PM ONLY
2) Fill - out entry form with Name of Child, Age, Parents, Address, Phone No. & Category your joining (a,b, or c)
3) For the Parents: Write a short story about the child. *(Isulat at ilakip and kwento tungkol sa bata)* 2 pages only
  a) When did you discover that your child is special? *(Kailan mo napansin ang kakaiba niyang katangian?)*
  b) Relate mother's interpretation and doctor's diagnosis. *(Ano nangyari ayon sa ina at doktor?)*
  c) Reaction of others towards your special child. *(Ano-ano ang mga reactions ng mga tao sa Special Child mo?)*
  d) What pains and challenges did you experience from your Special Child, if any, re: ambitions, money, society?
  (Ano ang sakit at challenges mula sa Special Child mo, kung meron, ayon sa iyong pangarap, pera, kapaligiran.)
  e) End your story with your hopes and dreams for each other and for your family, if any.
  (Sa katapusan ng inyong kwento, ibahagi and pangarap para sa bawat isa. (bata, magulang, pamilya)
4) Echoes of the Heart reserves the right to determine the validity of the entries.
5) All entries becomes the property of Echoes of the Heart that may be used for whatever purpose it may serve.
6) STARTS: Category A: January 6 -18. Category B: January 20 - 31. Category C: February 1-12, 2003 DEADLINE

For details please call: 6373965 - 70 / text: 09194625426 / email:echoes@pworl.net.ph / web www.geocities.com/echoesheart/
ECHOES OF THE HEART looks forward to celebrating its 8th Year Anniversary with you!
Ms. EVANGELINE L. PASCUAL
Host
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january 27, 2002 (monday)
glorietta 4 - cinema 6
7:30 pm
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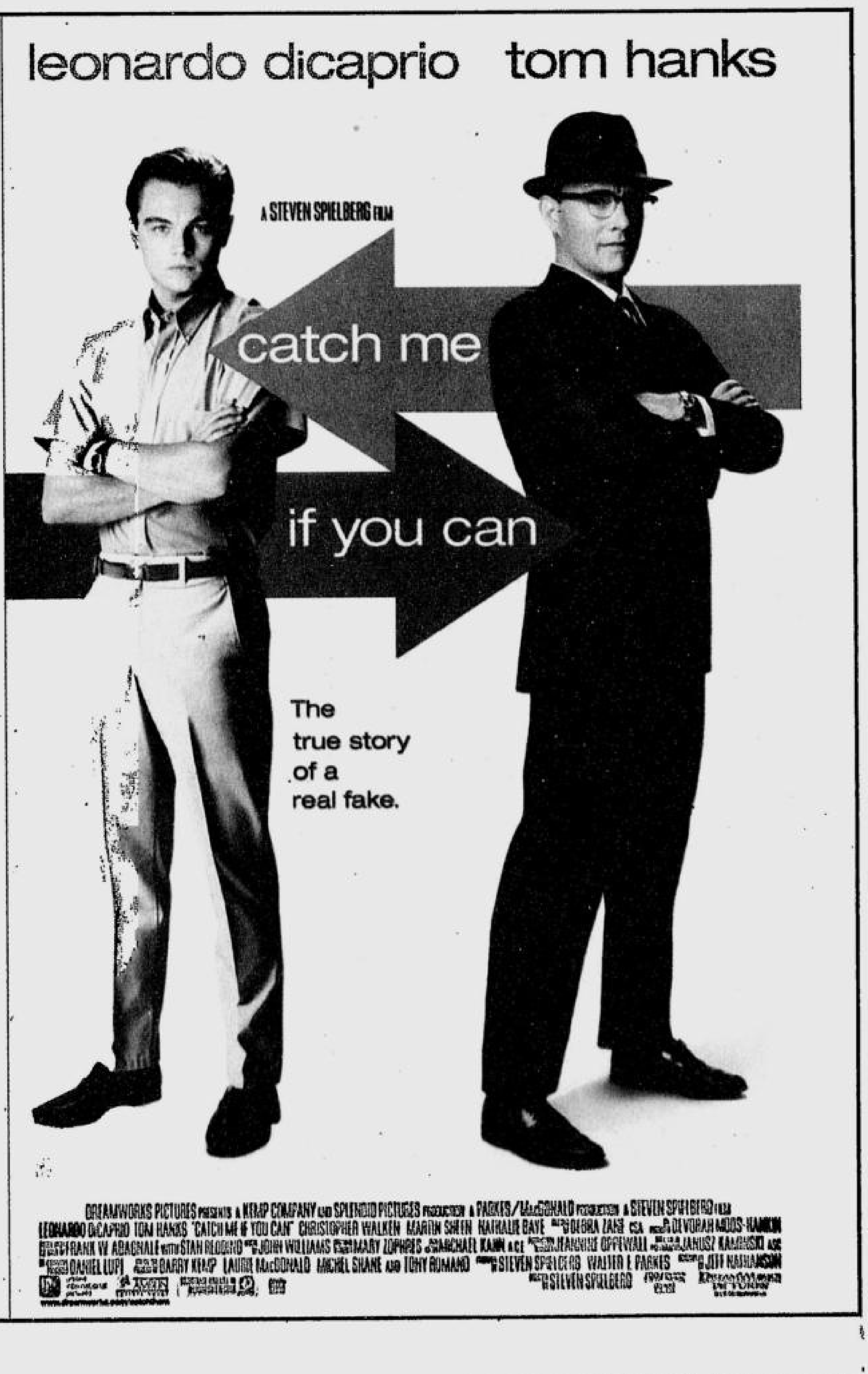
CATCH THEM ON JANUARY 29



leonardo dicaprio tom hanks
A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
catch me
if you can
The true story of a real fake.
DREAMWORKS PICTURES PRESENTS A KEMP COMPANY AND SPLENDID PICTURES PRODUCTION A PARKES/MacDONALD PRODUCTION A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
LEONARDO DiCAPRIO TOM HANKS "CATCH ME IF YOU CAN" CHRISTOPHER WALKEN MARTIN SHEEN NATHALIE BAYE

Marriage has been a blessing . . .

From page A29

"My son has met Jessa and we were all together last Christmas," Dingdong shares. "He is aware he is going to be a big brother soon. He plays basketball and I want to nurture that interest because I also love basketball."

Dingdong recently joined **Manny Valera**'s stable of talents, who include his wife Jessa, **Jay Manalo**, **Alessandra de Rossi**, **Zoren Legaspi** and **Jean Garcia**.

On Feb. 5, Dingdong topbills a one-night concert, "Walang Kapalit," 9 p.m. at Ratsky Morato in Quezon City.

The title of the show was taken after Dingdong's hit revival of **Rey Valera**'s song, culled from Dingdong's Star Records album, "Here To Stay." Joining him as special guest is **Ara Mina**.

The concert is mounted by DMV Entertainment and Yes-FM 101.1.

Dingdong will render a varied repertoire consisting of his hits, current favorites and selected medleys.

To further promote his album, Dingdong embarks on a mall tour, with a series of shows at SM Centerpoint on Feb. 2, Robinson's Ermita on Feb. 9, SM North Edsa on Feb. 16 and Robinson's Galleria on Feb. 22.

With a happy married life and a busy career, Dingdong cannot be thankful enough for maintaining such an ideal balance.

Feedback

TV and stage director **Fritz Ynfante** was on the phone Wednesday night, reacting to my column that day, "Stand-up comedians need to be censored, too" (01/22/2003).

Ynfante raised some points in my column which he found valid, even as he also countered a few things I wrote.

While he agreed that comedians don't have the license to curse onstage, Ynfante said there are ways of poking fun without humiliating or insulting the audience.

Ynfante pointed out there are different kinds of humor like satire or roasting and there are many ways of making people laugh. The jokes can be varied, from religion and politics to ethnic humor, he added.

"There are comedians who inflict harm on their audience and they take joy in the humorous scene," Ynfante said. "I don't think they meant to insult the person. They deal with a mature audience. Sometimes, it's also in the way they deliver their lines, but there are ethical norms to be observed.

"When you poke fun at an individual, usually that person has arrived in his field of endeavor. You don't poke fun at a taxi driver."

Ynfante cited American humor is the best exponent of poking fun at an audience without humiliating them.

"The comedy of **Don Rickles** is legendary," Ynfante said. "When he sees a Chinese-looking fellow in his audience, he can make fun of him and the guy wouldn't feel insulted at all. I watched him (Rickles) in Las Vegas. In his mid-'70s, Rickles is still the hottest ticket in town."

Ynfante also noted Orientals, especially Filipinos, are not intrinsically trained in humor that is satirical.

"We're very onion-skinned and we take the joke personally," he said.

Still, Ynfante said the be-all and end-all of being a comedian is to elicit laughs.

"If you can't, you might as well be a bus driver."

* * *

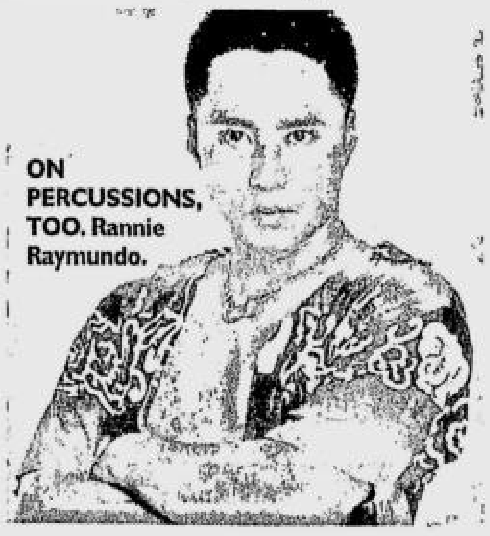
Still on the same column, I mentioned a few comedians who can entertain a corporate crowd, such as **Jon Santos**, **Arnel Ignacio**, **Candy Pangilinan** and **Giselle Sanchez**.

An industry member sent a text message which said "**Nanette Inventor** is a great performer."

A reader also mentioned **Tessie Tomas**. But Tessie, who is best known for her "Meldita" act, is hardly seen on the live comedy circuit these days.

* * *

Another caller said **Giselle Sanchez** is usually a hit in corporate gatherings. "She's not only good in speaking English, she is also sexy and she can be risqué, yet maintain her class."



ON PERCUSSIONS, TOO. Rannie Raymundo.

Raymundo brothers perform at Arkdia

RANNIE Raymundo will perform in a back-to-back concert with his younger brother Lance, 9 p.m. tomorrow, Jan. 28 at Arkdia.

Rannie will render rhythm and blues numbers, ballads and OPM, while Lance will do techno-rock.

In a special number, Rannie will display his flair for percussions and jam with Mon Espia on rhythm guitar and Kim Lesaca on bass.

The concert is mounted by H.K. Entertainment.

Tickets are available at the gate for P300, with a free drink. For reservations, call 400-9974.

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Parents are strongly warned against bringing children below 13. Some scenes can offend them.
Elijah Wood
Mandy Moore
Franka Potente
Try Seventeen
PENSHOPPE SOLAR

"GUSTO KONG MAG-EKSPERIMENTO..."
raymond bagatsing carlo maceda
katya santos
Sukdulan
hanggang saan ka sasabay? hanggang kailan ka bibigay?
DIRECTED BY MAC C. ALEJANDRE
VIVA FILMS A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
OPENS JANUARY 29

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
"Catch it while you can. Movies don't get much more fun than this. One of the best films of the year."
Good Morning America - Joel Siegel
leonardo dicaprio tom hanks
"It's a tribute to Spielberg's gifts as a director of suspense...a wonderful film."
Premiere Magazine - Glenn Kenny
"The nicest movie you could ask for...a gently funny, sweetly adventurous film that makes you feel genuinely good..."
Time Magazine - Richard Schickel
"Spielberg has forged Hanks and DiCaprio into a beguiling, exuberant movie."
The Today Show - Gene Shalit
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The true story of a real fake.
united international pictures
CATCH THEM ON JANUARY 29
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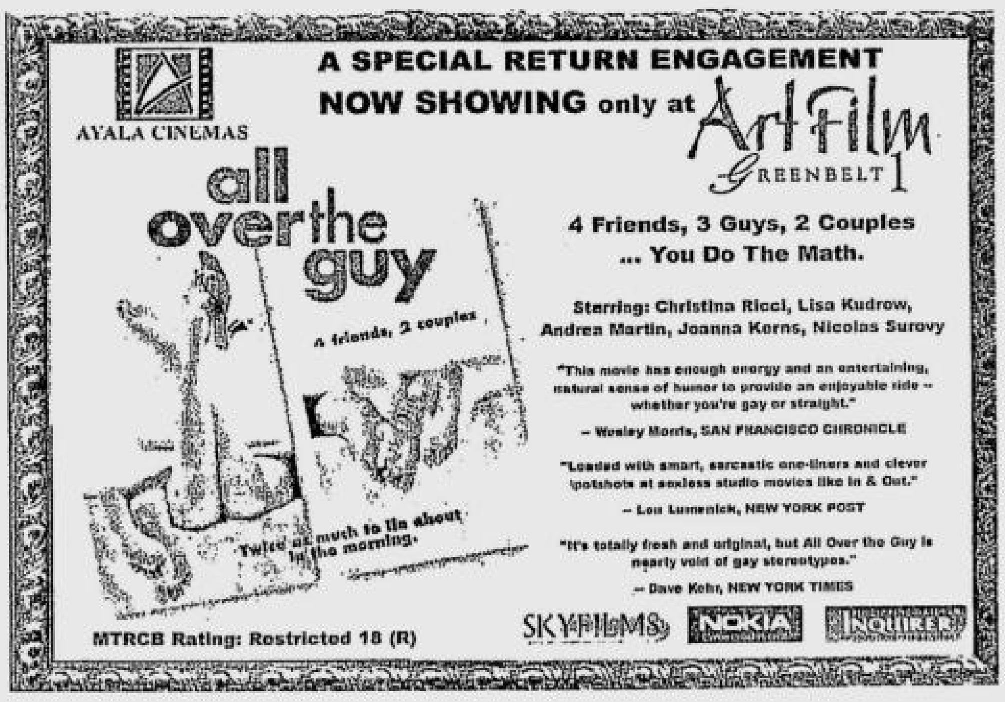

AYALA CINEMAS
A SPECIAL RETURN ENGAGEMENT
NOW SHOWING only at ArtFilm GREENBELT 1
all over the guy
4 friends, 2 couples
Twice as much to lie about in the morning.
4 Friends, 3 Guys, 2 Couples ... You Do The Math.
Starring: Christina Ricci, Lisa Kudrow, Andrea Martin, Joanna Kerns, Nicolas Surovy
"This movie has enough energy and an entertaining, natural sense of humor to provide an enjoyable ride -- whether you're gay or straight."
-- Wesley Morris, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
"Loaded with smart, sarcastic one-liners and clever potshots at sexless studio movies like In & Out."
-- Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST
"It's totally fresh and original, but All Over the Guy is nearly void of gay stereotypes."
-- Dave Kehr, NEW YORK TIMES
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

FREE TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND AT AYALA CINEMAS
WIN A FREE TRIP FOR TWO TO NEW ZEALAND AT AYALA CINEMAS WHEN YOU WATCH
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
EXPLORE THE WORLD OF MIDDLE EARTH
A JOURNEY TO NEW ZEALAND
SEE POSTERS AND LEAFLETS FOR MORE DETAILS.
Promo runs from Jan 11 to Feb 9, 2003.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0102. Series of 2003.
Special Thanks to:
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AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS JAN. 29 only at ArtFilm GREENBELT 1
Off Key, aka Desafinado, is a Spanish comedy made in English featuring an international cast.
It is the story of three operatic tenors who performed all over the world together, until a disastrous performance in Mexico City, where they split for good. Now, they are getting together at the French Villa for the wedding of one of the three tenors to the daughter of another. To further complicate things, the bride's mother is married to the third trio member now. The father of the bride, who has fallen on hard times, hires a hooker to accompany him, and to help with his plot to reunite the trio as performers. The groom-to-be has a son, who isn't really his, and who secretly has the hots for the bride's mother.
Starring:
Danny Aiello, George Hamilton, Joe Mantegna
Anna Galiena & Ariadna Gil
OFF KEY
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

Michael Gambon to play Professor Dumbledore

WHEN **Richard Harris** passed away late last year, speculations were rife as to who would replace him in the plum role of Professor Dumbledore in the "Harry Potter" film series. At the time, we came up with several suggestions, and our short list included the name of **Michael Gambon**.

After our piece came out, some people asked us who Michael Gambon was. We informed them that he was a British actor whose supporting and cameo performances had struck our fancy during our last visit to London.

We also shared the view of some of our artist-colleagues there that Gambon wasn't just an outstanding actor, he was in fact the best male thespian then working in British films.

Since England has many fine screen actors—**Jeremy Irons, Michael Caine, Terrence Stamp**—that was a surprising declaration, to say the least. We didn't know if we would go that far, but there it was.

Well, the latest news is Michael Gambon has been tapped to play Dumbledore in the third "Harry Potter" film, "The Prisoner of Azkaban." The film is expected to be shown at the end of this year.

Gambon's role in one of the most successful film franchises of all time is expected to do wonders to his movie career. Up till now, he has acted largely in small, independent productions. After his stint in the third "Harry Potter" film, however, Gambon will be able to reach the mainstream film audience, who will be given a chance to see if he is indeed the best screen actor in England.

Boob-tube booboos

HOST: What do you wish for your wife on your wedding anniversary today?

Guest: Darling—happy annivertacy!

(Annivertacy—what's that a combination of anniversary and ecstasy? How, *uh*, romantic . . .)

***

Host: How did you feel when you

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

first found out that you had won?

Contestant: Wow, *gulat ako, para bang, 'yun bang, parang* feeling *na*, my goodness!!!

(We're sorry we asked!)

***

Host: What do you like about this particular documentary, the reason why it was chosen for special mention?

Guest: I really liked it in particular because *gusto niyang burahin ang maling impresyon na ang mga* documentary *ay malalim.*

(*Ah*, please repeat?)

***

Host: Do you agree with some observers of the musical scene that **Michael Jackson** has flipped, which is why they now call him Wacko Jacko?

Guest: No, that's not true at all—he's just misconscrewed!

(Yeah, screwed is right)

***

Host: You have a wonderful voice!

Contestant: Thank you.

Host: And you're still so young!

Contestant: Thank you *po*.

Host: It's amazing—you're so young but you already have a great voice. You still have along way to go!

(Make up your mind!)

***

Host: *Saan ka nagtuturo?*

Guest: *Sa* (name of school).

Host: Can you tell us more about it?

Guest: *Doon nag-aaral ang mga batang hindi nakakakita—yun bang tinatawag na bulag na bata?*

(Thank you, *ha*?!)

***

Host: What to you is the most beautiful tourist site in the country, where you'll take a visiting foreigner to give him a very good impression?

Guest: I would take him to San Juanico Beach!

(*Saan 'yon*?!)

***

Host: Any last message for our viewers before we end this interview?

Guest: I just want to ask them to unite—now that she's given up politics, *suportahan po natin ang ating presideste!*

(*Ay, presideste!*)

Sharon on the big screen

IT LOOKS like **Sharon Cuneta** will be more visible on movie screen this year. She is shooting a "reunion" film with **Richard Gomez**—"Walang Kapalit," about a couple trying to get their marriage annulled.

While the subject matter is potentially explosive, the film has an upbeat view of troubled marriages, because Sharon and Richard's characters end up discovering that they still love each other.

The comeback of the Sharon-Richard love team is eagerly anticipated by movie fans, because they were a popular screen tandem in the '90s. Also, because they were a couple even off-camera, so their love scenes were especially felt.

They are expected to be even better together now because they've become more mature and insightful, both as persons and performers.

Aside from its being a "reunion" movie for Sharon and Richard "Walang Kapalit" is being talked about because it showcases the first big-screen appearances of TV co-hosts **Paolo Bediones** and **Miriam Quiambao.**

Paolo has been preparing to give the movies a try for sometime now, so we hope that he gets good, film career-launching role in "Walang Kapalit." Miriam's bid as a movie actress is more unexpected, but we hope she also does well.

At this stage, we wonder if acting in the movie (scripted by **Raquel Villavicencio** and directed by **Joel Lamangan**) is a one-shot deal for her. Perhaps, if she performs particularly well, she can be persuaded to appear in more movies.

She would then be joining the many former beauty queens who have turned movie star. The difference in her case is her having become a TV host first before the movies beckoned.

This year, Sharon could also make a movie with US-based Fil-American actor-singer **Paolo Montalvan** who is pleased to hear that the Megastar is interested in having him for a screen partner.

If the project pushes through, however, Sharon has to work out to get rid of some unwanted pounds. Paolo is tall, buff and toned, and Sharon could look a bit matronly beside him, so some visual and physical "improvements" are in order.

SEE IT FIRST!

SM CINEMA

ADVANCE SCREENING

on January 27, 2003
7:30 pm

SM MEGAMALL
CINEMA 10

MTRCB RATING: GP

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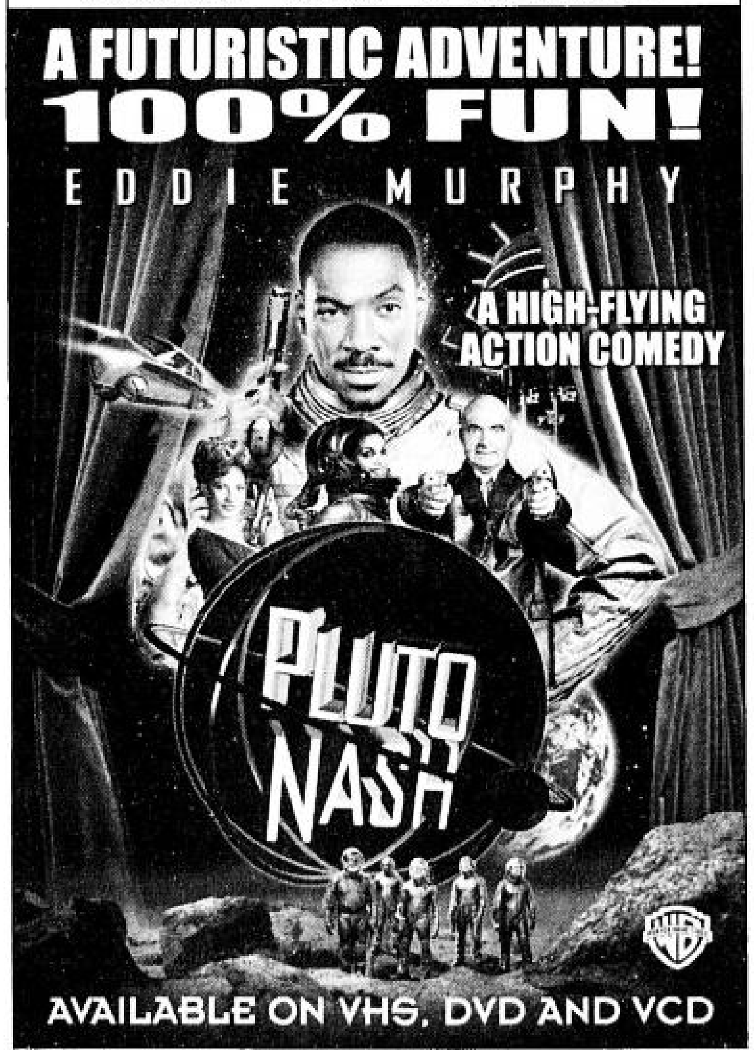
TONTON GUTIERREZ
and LORNA TOLENTINO
JIRO MANIO
Magnifico
Introducing
GIRLIE SEVILLA
Directed by Maryo J. de los Reyes, DGPI
A Violett Films Production



MTRCB RATING R Restricted
Robin Williams
One Hour Photo
NOW SHOWING

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	8 MILE
Ali 2	THE RING
Ali 3	HOT CHICK
Ali 4	LOD OF THE RINGS 2
Ali 5	TRY SEVENTEEN
Ali 6	ONE HOUR PHOTO
Ali 7	ANAYLYZE THAT
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
Farmers 2	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
ARANETA COLISEUM	
FEB 3 & 5	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
FEB 15	LANI MISALUCHA
FEB 18	ABBA TRIBUTE CONCERT
ELEPHANT WORLD	
JAN. 28	3 PM
JAN. 29	10 AM / 3 PM
JAN 30	10 AM / 3 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ALIAS BOMBA QUEEN / EROTIC DIARIES
ODEON	BANGKERO
ODEON-2	PAKAWALANG PUSO / APOY SA MAGDAMAG
ROBEN	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	FRAILTY / BALLISTIC
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	THE TOUCH / BALLISTIC
CORONET B	DOUBLE SEDUCTION
QUEZON-1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
REMAR	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
REMAR-2	BANGKERO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BANGKERO
B	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE LORD OF THE RING
CINEMA-2	ANALYZE THAT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BANGKERO
CINEMA-2	KERIDA
CINEMA-3	SPIRIT WARRIORS 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA-6	LASTIKMAN
CINEMA-7	DEKADA '70
CINEMA-8	MANO PO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS 2
CINEMA-12	HALF PAST DEAD
CINEMA-14	HEAVEN
CINEMA-15	RING
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LNES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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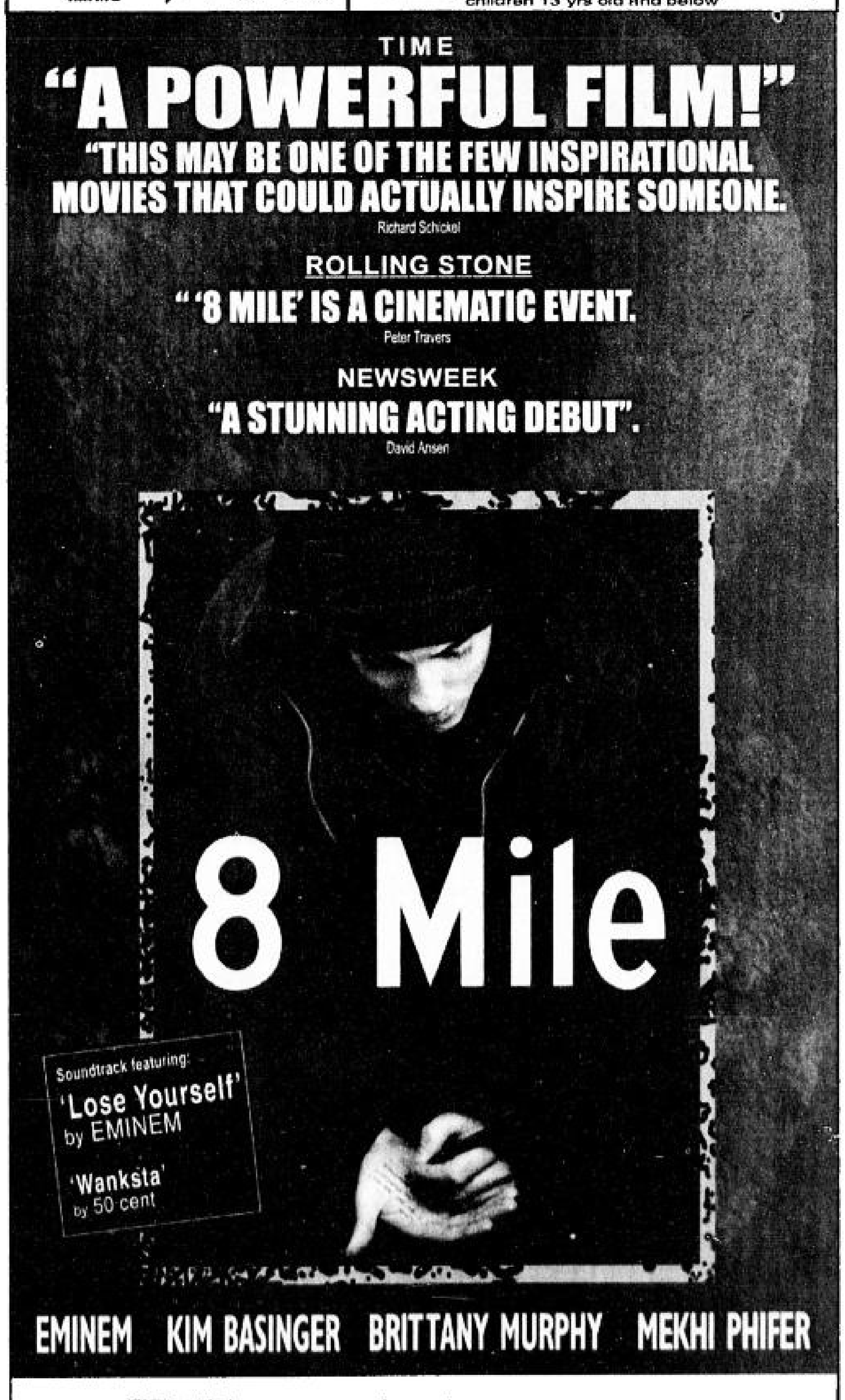

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

After taking a rollercoaster ride alone, Ronan Keating finds his destination

HE HAS just turned 25 and he's already sold more than 16 million albums worldwide. Ronan Keating is certainly one of the world's top-selling male singers, even after he dropped out of the Irish boy band Boyzone.

On Feb. 13, Ronan is performing at the Araneta Coliseum in a Valentine concert called "Ronan Keating—Destination Manila." He will sing his hits like "When You Say Nothing at All," "If Tomorrow Never Comes," "Life is a Rollercoaster," "We've Got Tonight" and many more. OPM hitmakers Aiza Seguerra, Kyla, Luke Mejares and The CompanY will join him in the concert.

Q & A

Tell us about life in your mid-20s.

I was 25 the other day and to be honest I've always kind of felt around that age anyway. I've never felt really 16. I always felt either 18 or 19 when I was 15 or 16. It was quite strange but I think it was also because the people I hung around with were always older than I.

My brothers and sisters all left home quite early and went off to America. I was the last one in the house with my mum and dad. I became quite independent and that kind of made me quite mature, I think. I was always ahead of myself a couple of years here and there. I'll now start winding the clock back!

I think that's true with having kids as well. Since I've had children, it makes you feel a lot younger, which is great, and you kind of relive your youth almost through your kids again. I love it, you know, buying toys for them, and I end up playing with them. It's quite funny.

But I've caught up with myself. I feel very comfortable where I am right now, musically and in my family life.

Did you approach your new album differently from your debut album, "Ronan?"

I know what I'm about now. I found my sound. I know what I want and I wanted the album to sound like that. When I made my first album I didn't know what I wanted the album to sound like. I didn't know what exactly the sort of artist I was at that time. I knew I was a solo artist, that was about it. So I guess when I approached the music, I knew that I was more confident than I was when I started the first album. So, yes, I guess I could be a little bit more adventurous in where I was going musically and lyrically.

After all the hits with Boyzone, what did the success of your first solo album mean to you?

I opened up to markets that never bought Boyzone records, you know, and if they did they didn't buy a lot of them.

"Rollercoaster," "Lovin' Each Day" opened up huge markets for me. It was great. Countries are interested in my music that were never interested before. Meeting the people and actually seeing they wanted this, they wanted the music, they wanted me to be there in their country and get up on stage and perform, it was an incredible feeling.

This album is a continuation.

You've been busy campaigning in behalf of a Unicef AIDS project in Asia. Why and how did you get involved in that?

The reason I'm sure that any person in the public eye tries to get involved in any charities is to create awareness. I went down to a place called Chang Rai in northern Thailand. There's a lot of people who have Aids in this area, infected or affected by Aids. We heard while we were there that, you know, a lot of the parents from the mountains went to the city in Bangkok and got involved in prostitution to earn some money to bring home to the family but when they came home they brought Aids with them.

We went to a group that is trying to, you know, go to schools and educate people. We went to a hospital and we met some of the people affected by Aids and infected by Aids. It was incredible. I went there with MTV and Unicef and we did this program down there. It was mind-blowing stuff, it was unbelievable, you know, and it was hard for me. I have two kids at home myself and it broke my heart. I have to say it was a really hard thing to do.

I'm very pleased, I'm very happy, that I did it and I hope that I can create some sort of awareness for the project, it's called Speak Your Mind. You know, I'm not going down there and trying to change any of this. I'm just trying to create awareness so that other people understand that Aids basically has no cure. The only cure we have is prevention, so people just have to be more aware.

Now that you've built up an international reputation, is success at home in Ireland still just as important to you?

I was really honored recently to win an award, Best Irish Male, at the Irish music awards in Dublin. It was a great night, everybody enjoyed it, it was a huge, huge show, you know. The bands came on and performed. Enrique Iglesias was there and Muse and the Cranberries and Westlife and U2 were there. I got a chance to perform, picked up the award, presented an award to Paul Brady for lifetime achievement. So it was a great night.

I think the hardest market for any artist is their own market, their home market. The hardest place to break and to be successful continuously is their own country. So for me, after nine years, to still come home and, you know, to be patted on the back and to be told, "here you go son"—do you know what I mean? "Here's an award for you." Best Male Pop is very special and a great start for the new album for me here in Ireland.

You are now an established solo artist. What does the launch of this second album mean to you?

It's only the beginning of my career. The second album is far more important than a first album, I think. You know, it really is. It's the challenge now. You can get out there, you get your first album out and you know people will buy it because they're intrigued and they want to know.

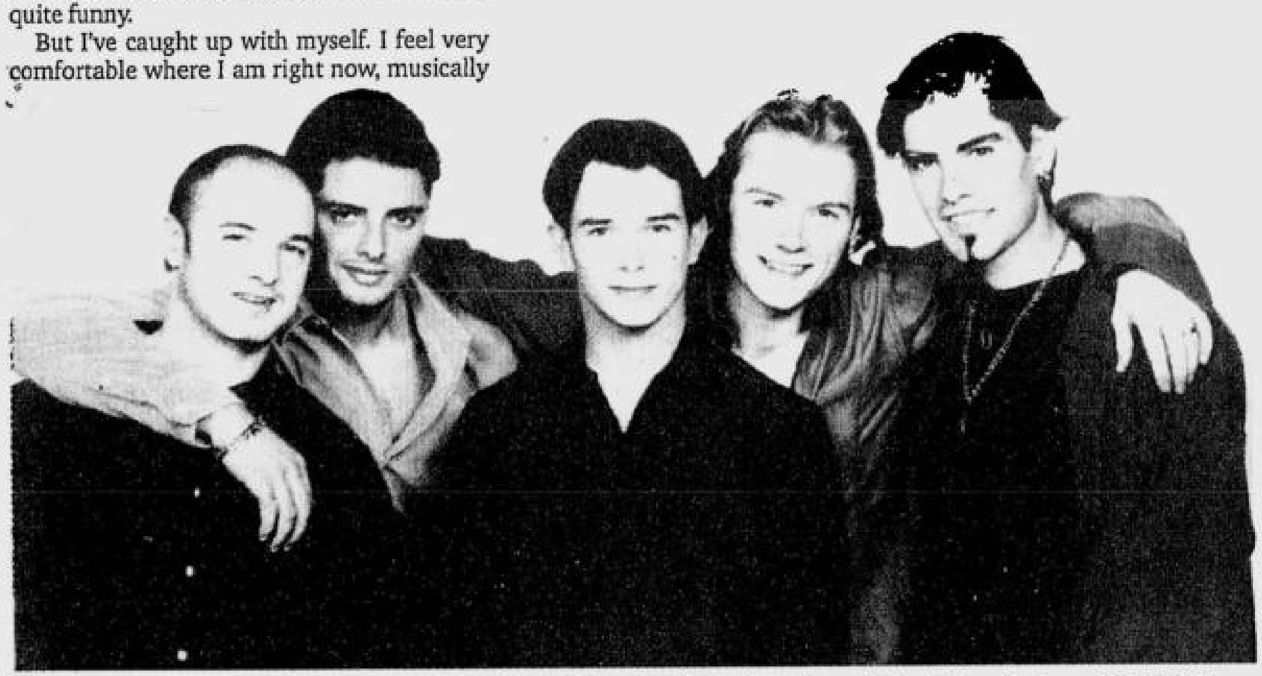
Now you've got to impress them. Now this is when it really happens so the second album's very important and I'm very excited to get it out and see what happens.

And finally, what are your plans for this year?

We started in the UK in June last year, and then through the rest of the year we hop through the world. We go through Asia, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, all of Europe, and, hopefully, maybe take it on to Canada and maybe see what happens from there. I'll be busy promoting my "Destination" album starting in Asia, specifically in the Philippines via a big concert. It's going to be a busy year and I'm very, very excited.

I love being on stage, I love performing. I've got my own space, my freedom to do what I want to do, my choice of songs, you know. You look back at your musicians and think that they're here and they're my band and it's just them and me and it's a very, very special feeling and they're a great, great band and I love working with them. We've been working two and a half years together now so we know each other very well.

Tickets to "Ronan Keating—Destination Manila" are available at all SM Ticketnet outlets; or call 911-5555.



BOYZONE DAYS. Keating (second from right) with fellow band members (from left)—Mikey Graham, Keith Duffy, Stephen Gately and Shane Lynch—during their 1997 Manila visit.

'Magnifico': The first really good movie of 2003

By Lito B. Zulueta

REVIEW

IF YOU want another proof of how mismanaged the last Metro Manila Film Festival was, take a look at Maryo J. de los Reyes' "Magnifico." In a highly irregular decision that smacked of prior censorship and laid the groundwork for the blatant commercialist tenor of the festival, the festival committee headed by Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo required producers to submit the screenplays of their entries.

The screening basically decided the festival entries and which movies would get the subsidy from the P50-million film assistance fund of President Macapagal-Arroyo. What happened? The screenplay of "Magnifico" ended up 12th, very much far behind such idiocies as "Lastikman," "Agimat" and "Hula Mo, Huli Ko."

The shock is that the screenplay of "Magnifico," written by Mitchiko Yamamoto, had won the first prize in the 2001 screenplay contest of the Film Development Institute. You would think that its having won in a semi-state-sponsored contest would at least entitle it to financial assistance for it to be realized on screen. But the festival screening committee did not think so. We don't know if they had been informed beforehand that the screenplay was a prizewinner; but that would not have perhaps mattered since to their amoeba-minds, "Lastikman" and "Hula Mo" were *pang*-Cannes."

Definitely, it would matter to the organizers that the festival take in the money to boost the government's resource mobilization (read: taxes) and improve the take of the Mowelfund, the film industry pension fund, and a host of other subsidy programs for the cinema. Thus, it was only right for them to give in to the pressure to make the festival a carnival in the most blatantly commercial sense of the term.

Now all of this would have been all right had the festival discarded the rhetorical fig leaf that it was being held as a showcase of the best in Philippine cinema. This would have been all right if the President's special fund had not been used to finance dim-witted movies. And yes, if these dim-witted movies had not been given a lock on the lucrative Christmas season when Filipinos were hard-pressed looking for intelligent movies to spend their hard-earned Christmas bonuses on.

Heart

It is easy to see how the festival committee could have missed out on "Magnifico." It is not a fantasy movie with ghouls, gum-like superheroes, and talismans. What it lacks in special visual effects it makes up for by heart and intelligence. It is the story of Magnifico (Jiro Manio), a good-hearted boy who however personifies his family's frustrations. Named Magnificent by his proud father Gerry (Albert Martinez), he has turned out to be someone with unmagnificent qualities: he performs poorly in school and cannot measure up to his brother Miong (Daniel Barrios), who studies in Manila with a scholarship grant.

SIMPLE NATURALISM. Maryo J. de los Reyes directs child actors Jiro Manio (left) and Joseph Roble in "Magnifico," a film with heart and intelligence.

The world caves in on the family. Gerry, who does odd carpentry jobs, finds the breaks coming fewer. His wife Edna (Lorna Tolentino) pawns her wedding ring as the family finances thin out. Their youngest child, Helen (Isabella de Leon), has cerebral palsy and hasn't spoken yet. Miong comes home with the news he has lost his scholarship. And Gerry's mother, Lola Magda (Gloria Romero), is diagnosed with diabetes and terminal cancer.

It is Edna who breaks down and quite insensitively complains that Lola Magda's death would further bury the family in penury because of the costly funeral. Magnifico overhears all of this and acts swiftly. He asks her grandmother not to die yet and she gives her word. With his best friend Carlo (Joseph Roble), he secretly prepares for the funeral by making a coffin out of surplus wood from the wood furniture shop of the town businessman (Tonton Gutierrez) and raising money for the expenses by selling water and fruit juice in the town fair.

When the coffin is finished with the help of his unsuspecting father, Magnifico paints it in child-like colors of life and vitality, banishing the gloom and death around him.

There are several threads that run through the basic story, and they converge on the wonderful parable about the indestructibility of innocence and the infectiousness of goodness.

Wanting to take his sister to the fair, Magnifico asks the town bachelor Domeng (Mark Gil) to give him the wheelchair that the latter's mother had used until her death. But still grieving, Domeng refuses to part with the chair. When Magnifico comes home to find his sister eager to go to the fair, he carries her on his shoulders and as they pass by Edna and Lola Magda, Helen starts to speak. Her mother is beside herself with joy.

The fable is presented without any stagey attempt at magic realism. The feel and form are utterly realistic. The audience can only smile and smart at Magnifico's naïve but honest and ultimately effective attempts to alleviate her parents' worries about his grandmother's funeral and sister's disability.

Unmagnificent miracles

The simple naturalism of the movie is essential to revealing the heart of the eternal truth: grace builds on nature. Miracles don't fall from the sky, but grow out of the charity of simple acts and pure intentions. Magnificence is not a spectacle; it is as subtle as a mustard seed issuing from under the earth plowed by prayer, passion, and benevolence. Magnificence is really magnanimity in faith, hope and charity.

Yamamoto's screenplay expertly endows a contemporary and even positivistic flavor to the traditional miracle story. Here is one writer who knows how to tell a story, impelled by a sense of wonder that derives not from the theme-park entertainment complex of Hollywood and its copycats, but from the rich mine of ancient mythology and Christian allegory. Her characters start off as flat and stereotypical and end up as round, fully realized and ultimately iconic.

It is not surprising that it was Maryo J. de los Reyes who took the script seriously. Despite winning first prize in the screenplay contest, Yamamoto's work had no takers because of its lack of commercial pretensions. But since De los Reyes has always been a director who pierces through the veil of things, he found the pearl that lay at the heart of Yamamoto's deceptively simple script: he found the grace in it. The result is easily one of De los Reyes's best movies, if not his best.

"Magnifico" is also one of the best-acted movies in recent memory. With his heartfelt and heartbreaking performance, Jiro Manio may yet make Magnifico the Pinoy everychild.

Albert Martinez and Lorna Tolentino are effective as the couple hobbled by bad breaks. Gloria Romero is endearing as the grandmother. Mark Gil, Isabella de Leon, Celia Rodriguez, Cherry Pie Picache, Amy Austria, Danilo Barrios, Tonton Gutierrez, Allyson Seven, Dindin Llarena and Girlie Sevilla deliver the best in ensemble acting.

Perhaps the biggest miracle is that a neophyte producer (Violeta Sevilla) and a new company (Violett Films) had the courage and the heart to bankroll a movie that nobody wanted to make, not even by a state-sponsored festival that regularly trumpets its partiality for quality movies.

"Magnifico" really shows that state and industry assistance to the cinema is at best lip service. While encouraging the writing of good screenplays, the government and the industry do not support the screenplays they elect in their derbies. What they give by the right hand they take away by the left. Now what would you call that? A magnificent sham?

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IMF sees lower growth, big BOP deficit

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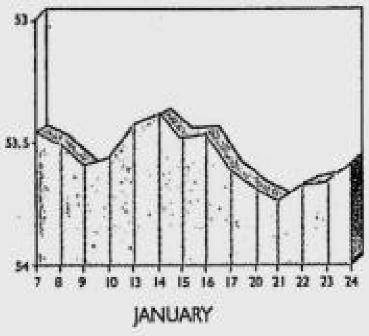

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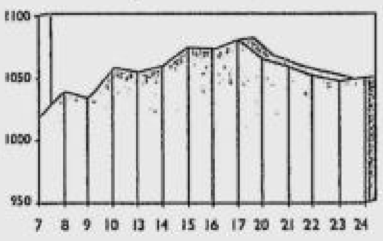
STOCK MARKET

Stocks seen drifting sideways

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX
JANUARY



(See stock market report on Page B6)

THE LOCAL stock market is seen to drift sideways this week as investors, spooked by threats of war in the Middle East and the weakness in the US markets, await fresh incentives to pick up battered issues.

This developed as the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index failed to sustain a positive momentum seen in two previous weeks, losing 31.18 points or 2.88 percent last week to close at 1,050.62 on Friday.

"The market remains weak but I don't expect to see a big drop. Instead, there may be attempts to breach 1,080," said Monique Licaros, manager for institutional sales at SB Equities.

Barring any major worldwide catastrophe, Licaros also noted that the Phisix would no longer fall below its historic low of 980 recorded in September 2001 when the United States was hit by terrorist attacks. She also said some fresh buying might be inspired by the nearing Chinese New Year starting Feb.1.

Rommel Macapagal, a trader at Westlink Global Equities, said the market would likely move sideways this week within a tight band of 1,034 to 1,060, but with a downward bias.

"The market lacks direction right now. Investors are staying on the sidelines. The volume is thin. There is no incentive to buy. They are waiting for what will happen in the Middle East," Macapagal said.

However, he said most blue-chips might correct as they were still groping for firmer support levels.

A major event that the market will watch out for this week is the United Nation's weapons inspection report to the UN Security Council on Jan. 27, which will be crucial in whether war against Iraq will be waged.

STOCKS/ B6

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund expects the Philippine economy to slow down and for the external payments position to end 2003 with a huge deficit.

An IMF report following its December visit showed that it had recast its outlook on gross domestic product growth to 3.5 percent from a 3.8-percent forecast for 2003 done in September 2002.

Even more bearish is the IMF's expectations of a $1.1-billion deficit in the balance of payments (BOP) against the central bank's target of a $200-million surplus.

As of September 2002, the BOP surplus stood at $751 million and the Fund believed it would drop to $500 million by end-December. The IMF also placed the current account for 2003 at a deficit equivalent to 3.3 percent of GNP.

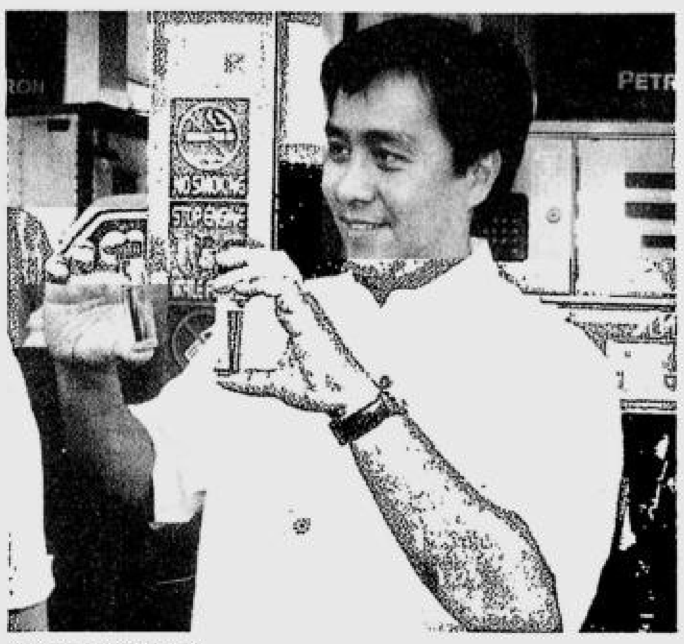
Partly responsible for the negative external payments position in the IMF forecast this year is a $2.3-billion deficit in errors and omissions, the entry for inconsistent data and often interpreted by analysts as capital flight.

When the 2003 projections were calculated, the IMF still made provisions for trade data adjustments due to "a possible underestimation of inputs for consigned electronics."

Due to a statistical glitch, the IMF believed that imports this year would grow by 30.8 percent from its 12.2 percent forecast last year while it saw exports improving by 8.2 percent in 2003 from its previous estimate of 7.8 percent in 2002, higher than the government's range of 5 to 8 percent this year.

The country's underestimated imports and overstated current account surplus in 2000 and 2001 were finally adjusted this month after financial markets reacted to adverse reports on the

IMF/ B6



FUEL TESTING
Energy Secretary Vincent S. Perez Jr. made a surprise visit and took samples of fuel products currently sold by Petron in Wack Wack, Mandaluyong City, to test if their fuel products are compliant with the standards set forth by the Clean Air Act.

PSE clears Meralco, execs of insider trading

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has cleared utility giant Manila Electric Co., its officers and principals of any involvement in insider trading linked to the Supreme Court order to refund billions of pesos in alleged excess charges late last year.

In an interview with the INQUIRER on Friday, PSE president Ernest Leung said the local bourse submitted last Wednesday to the Securities and Exchange Commission the results of its investigation on the Meralco case.

"There was not enough evidence to make a determination of insider trading," Leung said.

"We went through the process of tracking down the transactions, including those made by related parties and transfer agents. During the period in review, we found no significant ownership change," he explained.

Leung said he had instructed his staff to submit the clearance report to the SEC. This effectively recommended against any further action that would lead to charges relating to violations of the Securities Regulation Code, which imposes stiff penalties on insider trading and other manipulative practices.

The ball is now on the court of the SEC, which may pursue its own probe to validate or reverse the PSE's findings on Meralco, a utility controlled by the Lopez family.

The PSE started its probe on trading of Meralco shares in mid-November last year following the sharp selldown three weeks prior to the release of the controversial Supreme Court ruling. It then considered the possibility that some market-moving information had been leaked and used for market positioning prior to the actual announcement of the ruling.

The investigation made by the PSE was based on three parameters used as "alert" benchmarks by its compliance and surveillance department—price, volume and value of transactions during the period related to the event. At that time, Meralco share price had fallen to an eight-year low.

The dumping during the period was dominated by the "B" shares or those mostly held by foreign players.

The share price of Meralco "B" was up by P2.04 on Friday to close at P12.50, although it fell week-on-week on jitters that the Energy Regulatory Commission might take time in acting on its rate hike petition.

To date, the market is also concerned over a recent statement from the National Power Corp., which insisted that Meralco must honor a 10-year supply contract obliging the latter to buy 3,600 megawatts.

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Gov't revives privatization plan for PNOC-EDC

By Clarissa Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is reviving plans to sell some of its equity in PNOC Energy Development Corp. to raise as much as P20 billion in new revenues.

"We are planning to privatize between 10 to 20 percent of the company. It could be this year," said Sergio Apostol, the company's president.

PNOC-EDC is among numerous state assets lined up for privatization since the late 1990s whose sale had to be pushed back indefinitely because of poor market conditions. The company explores and develops geothermal energy sources largely to generate electricity.

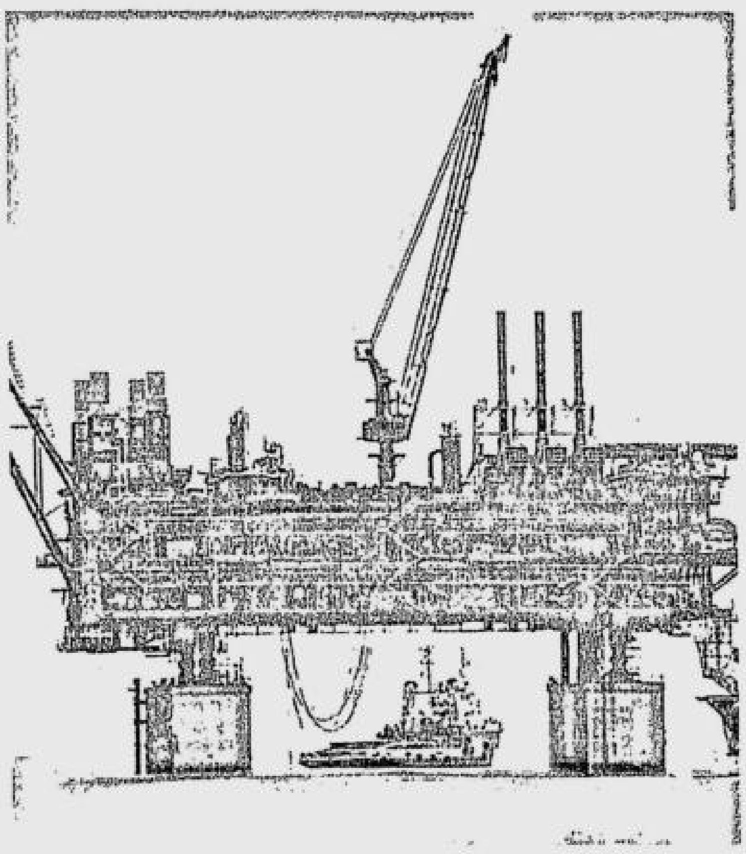
The geothermal company is the next biggest subsidiary of PNOC after Petron Corp., 60 percent of which was privatized in 1994. Saudi Aramco owns 40 percent of Petron and 20 percent is held by the investing public.

The power restructuring law, according to sources, called for the integrated privatization of PNOC-EDC with the generation assets of National Power Corp.

The inter-agency Privatization Management Office is studying whether the sale of PNOC-EDC equity could be done separately.

Apostol said that among those interested in drawing up a financial plan for the privatization was ING Barings, the underwriter for a $90-million private bond issue signed by the company last week. Proceeds of the private placement would be used to pay a maturing loan worth $90 million.

The PNOC-EDC official said that the company needed P21 billion for its capital expenditures this year. Some of the amount, however, will come from operating income although the company is projected to contribute P6 billion to this year's estimated consolidated public sector deficit.



MALAMPAYA platform in offshore Northwest Palawan. FILE PHOTO

A $120-million loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation is also being finalized, Apostol said.

Aside from equity in the geothermal company, PNOC is also selling some of its interest in the PNOC Exploration Corp., which owns a 10-percent stake in the $2-billion Malampaya natural gas project. Selling PNOC-EC's stake should generate about $400 million for the government.

The government must raise P1 billion from its privatization program this year to help keep the budget deficit at P202 billion. Proceeds in excess of P1 billion would be used to finance additional expenditure items not in the proposed 2003 budget.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the Privatization Management Office had agreed, during last Friday's meeting, to organize the assets to be privatized in a "template" that would detail the timetable, valuation and mode of sale, among others.

He said the group also agreed to isolate assets that may be hard to dispose due to legal problems. Among these are the sequestered television stations RPN-9 and IBC-13.

The inter-agency privatization group, according to Camacho, should identify which assets to sell every quarter.

Included in the list of assets to be sold are a 10-percent stake in Manila Electric Co., 90-percent stake in Philippine National Construction Co. and the five-hectare property in Makati used to be occupied by the International School.

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Bourse seen starting dollar board this year

By Doris C. Dumlao

AFTER two years in the backburner, the Philippine Stock Exchange plans to finally jumpstart its proposed dollar-denominated trading facility this new year.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, PSE president Ernest Leung said the local bourse was working to put the infrastructure for the dollar board in place to add to the new offerings of the exchange.

"That is our objective but this is still subject to clearances with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas," Leung said.

When the PSE hatched the plan for a new dollar board in early 2001, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas expressed concern that it might become a venue for further speculative attacks against the peso.

To curb speculative pressures on the local currency, the BSP requires strict documentation on huge amounts of foreign exchange sourced from the banking system.

The PSE, for its part, has since then vowed to draw up safety nets to prevent dollar-salting or currency conversions outside the banking system.

As investors could trade in pesos in the morning and transact dollars in the afternoon, monetary regulators were worried that there would be more foreign exchange outflow than inflow should investors decide to buy in pesos and sell in dollars.

Nevertheless, the dollar board aims to enhance the PSE's present trading infrastructure by allotting an extended off-floor trading session in the afternoon for trades of securities of Philippine companies that are also listed offshore.

The PSE's plan is to initially restrict trades in the board to shares of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Manulife Financial Corp. and Sun Life of Canada.

The offering of the facility aims to eliminate exchange rate volatility risks.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Tagaytay untangled

TAGAYTAY Highlands and Globe Telecom have quietly agreed to stop the visiting privileges extended to Globe Platinum card members effective Dec. 31, apparently out of sensitivity to the regular members of the exclusive golf and country club.

A number of club members, concerned over the value of their shares, not to mention the club's exclusivity, had been grumbling about the Globe promo, specially after Globe advertised that, for an average of P4,000/month billing, a Globe postpaid subscriber would now be eligible to use the Highlands' facilities.

In any case, even during the length of the Globe promotion, which ran from March to December 2002, Globe Platinum members still had to seek prior clearance from the management before they were even allowed entry into the club grounds, said Tagaytay Highlands president Jerry Tiu.

"They cannot just drive up to the club, and waive their Platinum cards and be let in by the guards," Tiu said.

Unknown to the public, Tatang Henry Sy, now the over-

COCKTALES/ B6

Treasury eyes more $-linked bonds

By C. Batino

SIGNALLING weak prospects for the peso, the government is lining up the sale of another P5 billion worth of dollar-linked bonds in the next few months.

Increasing sale of dollar-linked bonds could mean the government is shifting some of its local borrowings to the dollar-hedge facility where demand appears more robust compared to local treasuries. Only P3 billion of the greenback-linked notes were programmed for sale in the first three months.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government would ask the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to approve the sale within the first quarter of another P5 billion in three-year dollar-linked bonds.

The government had sold recently two sets of three-year bonds—one in early December and another last week. The first one was in November 2001 when some P3 billion in bonds were issued.

The strong appetite for these bonds indicates how bearish banks are with the local currency this year and how much they like to hedge their exposure on the peso. Many expect the local currency to drop to 55 to 60 against the dollar this year.

The government believes the peso would average between 52 and 54 this year, taking into account the impact the US-Iraq war would have specially on crude oil prices.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the peso should average between 53 and 53.50 this year. In 2002, the local currency averaged at 51.587 to a dollar. The peso closed at 53.59:$1 last Friday.

Demand for the dollar-linked bonds sold last Jan. 16 reached P16 billion but supply was limited to P5 billion, which was taken by 15 banks including underwriters Deutsche Bank, Multinational Investment Bancorp and RCBC Capital.

The government tasked the three institutions in 2001 to design the structure of the dollar-linked bonds and sell up as much as P20 billion of these instruments.

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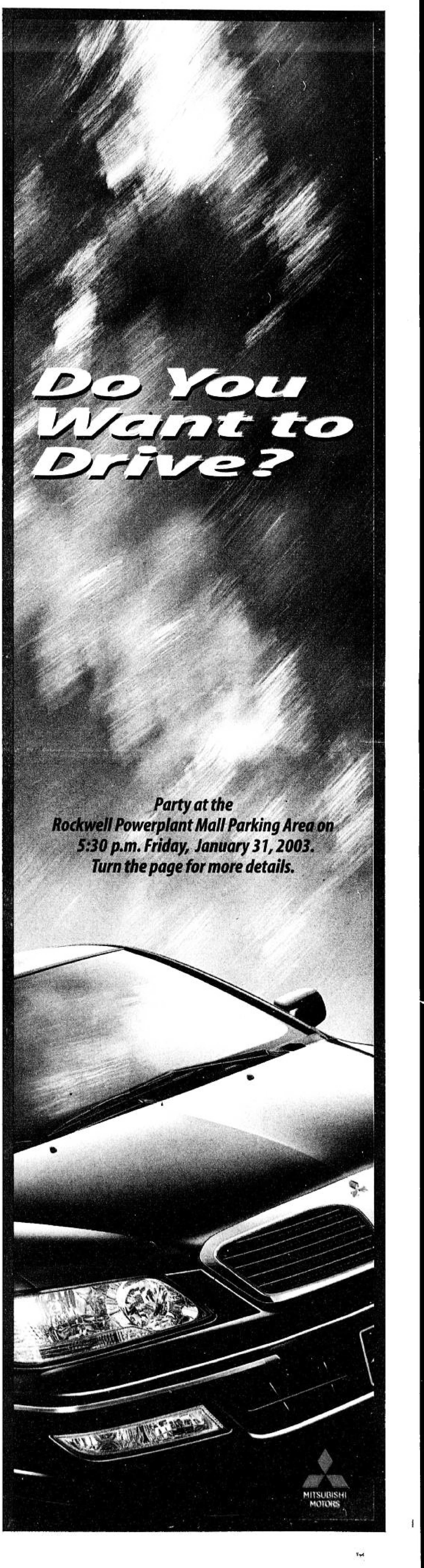
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Turn the page for more details.
MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Metrobank bad loans down 13.4% in end-2002

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest bank, has reported that its non-performing loan ratio fell to 13.4 percent as of the end of 2002 after reaching 15.27 percent in mid-December.

In an interview last week, Metrobank executive vice president Alfredo Javellana III also disclosed that the bank posted a profit in 2002 better than 2001's P2.11 billion.

He declined to give the exact figure for 2002 or whether the bank was able to reach its full-year profit target of P3-3.5 billion.

He also predicted that this year would be more difficult for the bank, given the external environment, particularly the probable all-out' war between the United States and Iraq.

Nevertheless, he said, the bank was still hoping to increase its loan portfolio.

The bank will also take in ANZ Bank as a partner in its credit card business, he said.

On the bank's NPL figures, Javellana explained that the NPL ratio reached 15.27 percent in December only because the bank had to absorb Global Business Bank's P8-billion past due portfolio in line with the merger of the two banks.

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How Dolphy can afford to pay VAT

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

DOLPHY, my lifelong idol, was on TV the other night. He complained that if he will have to pay the value-added tax on his income, he may have to let go of his driver and, presumably, some other, ahem, amenities. It was a brilliant performance, as always.

Let me show Dolphy how he can pay VAT and still keep his lifestyle. But, you may ask, who am I to be giving tax advice to the top movie star of the country? All insurance brokers and agents have been subject to the tax since 1994, if I recall right. So, we are all experts, at least as far as the VAT system applies to insurance.

Now, for some basics. The VAT is a tax on the sale of goods and services. It is slapped on the seller, but the law allows him to pass on the tax to the buyer. In the end, the buyer pays the tax and the seller is the BIR's collecting agent.

When you insure your house, the invoice includes the premium and VAT (plus three other taxes that we will not take up so as not to clutter the discussion). You pay to your broker. Then the broker remits the premium and the VAT to the insurance company minus his commission and the VAT on his commission. If the premium is P1,000, the VAT is P100. Assuming a commission of 25 percent, the broker sends to the insurance company P750 plus P75. He keeps P250 plus P25. The broker sends the P25 to the BIR less any VAT on his purchases. For example, if he bought stationery costing P100 plus P10 VAT, then he sends to the BIR P25 less P10 or a net remittance of P15.

Back to Dolphy. Let us say he signs a P1-million contract. If his contract does not say anything about VAT, the law presumes that the tax is included in the P1 million. As a result, he will be slapped a tax equal to one-eleventh (let us not go into where the one-eleventh comes from; please, take my word) of the P1 million, or P90,909.09. Dolphy's P1 million is down to P909,090.91. He will have to downgrade his lifestyle, poor fellow.

What Dolphy should do is tell the producer that the contract will be for P1 million plus P100,000 VAT. With his clout, Dolphy should have no problem getting the producer to agree. Dolphy remits the P100,000 to the BIR minus the VAT he pays on his purchases subject to the tax. For instance, Dolphy throws a party, and the caterer charges him P100,000 plus P10,000 VAT. Dolphy deducts this P10,000 from the P100,000 he is to remit to the BIR. Without the P100,000 VAT that Dolphy collected from the producer, he will have to pay the P10,000 from his pocket. Won't Dolphy like this?

For his part, the producer pays the P100,000 out of the VAT on the film rentals that he is already collecting from the movie house owners. Without the VAT on Dolphy's contract, the producer ends up sending P100,000 more directly to the BIR, instead of coursing it through Dolphy.

Dolphy's P100,000 does not affect the movie house owners at all since they have been paying VAT on film rentals all along. This VAT on film rentals is part of the movie house owner's operational cost and is built into the price of the ticket. As a result, Dolphy's P100,000 should not raise ticket prices.

So, it is also incorrect for the finance department to say that slapping VAT on movie stars will raise government income. Let the finance people show me how this is so.

Finally, all the uproar by the movie stars was misplaced. Their income must be subject to VAT, as an additional and specific amount paid by producers, because that is the system.

If the commissions of insurance brokers and agents are subject to the tax, so should the income of movie stars and, for that matter, the professionals. Fair is fair.

BAP, PSE to sign shares swap deal this week

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines is set to sign on Wednesday an agreement that will allow the Philippine Stock Exchange to take a 20-percent stake in the BAP's planned fixed-income exchange.

Under a memorandum of understanding to be signed by the two groups, the PSE will swap its shares in the Philippine Central Depository for an initial stake in the BAP's fixed-income exchange.

"There will be a swap of shares—PCD for FIE shares—and the deficiency they will pay with cash," BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel said in an interview.

He said the two parties had yet to determine the basis of valuation under the planned agreement.

The stock exchange currently has a 30-percent stake in PCD, but this could be further reduced—possibly to 26 percent—when the exchange increases its stake in its clearing arm, the Securities Clearing Corp. of the Philippines, to 100 percent from 51 percent.

It was earlier reported that the BAP plans to make the PCD a unit of the fixed income exchange that would take care of the custody and registry of local financial instruments.

Elena R. Torrijos

Oil firms to get permits to run Pandacan depot

LOCAL oil refiners have expressed confidence their business permits for the Pandacan oil depot will be renewed this week, as safety issues involving the facility are being addressed following similar cases abroad.

On Friday, visiting Royal Dutch/Shell managing director Malcolm Brinden said the oil firms were confident they will get permits from the Manila city government that will allow them to continue operating their terminals.

"(Ongoing efforts to scale down operations in Pandacan) are a natural consequence of having put up a terminal in an area where originally there was no population," Brinden said.

"It was proper to make changes now that communities had grown around the facilities," he said.

"We have got many similar situations globally, and I think the key is make sure that it operates at high standards," Brinden said.

"Having terminals close to areas of consumption makes sense in terms of providing supply," he added.

The Pandacan depot accounts for 90 percent of Metro Manila's fuel needs and 50 percent of the country's.

Ronnel W. Domingo

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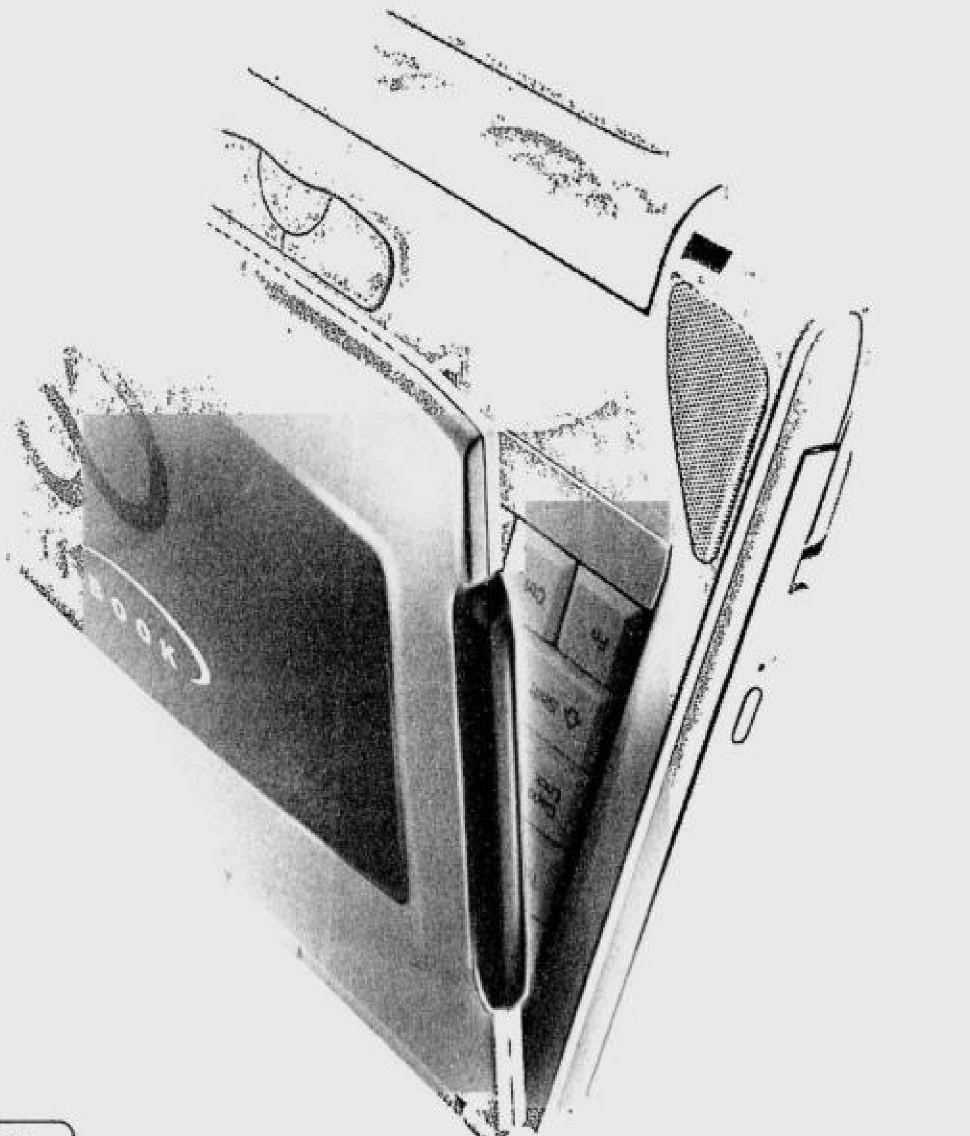

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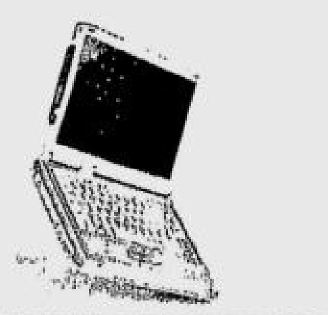

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Mitsubishi to cease making Lancers in RP

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MITSUBISHI Motors has put the brakes on the assembly of the Lancer in the Philippines this year and will import the compact sedan from Thailand as part of the Japanese automotive giant's realignment of its Southeast Asian operations in a single regional market.

The move is part of the company's strategy to rev up the Lancer line, which has trailed miserably in the sales race over the past few years behind compact sedan market leaders—Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. senior vice president Melchor S. Dizon said: "We're looking to grab the No. 2 position in the passenger car segment. The new Lancer will be competitive in both price and specifications."

Dizon said the country's participation this year in the Asean Free Trade Area, where duties on Asean-made completely built up units have been cut from 30 percent to 5 percent, has made it possible for vehicle makers with multiple factories in the region to concentrate their operations in one or two models.

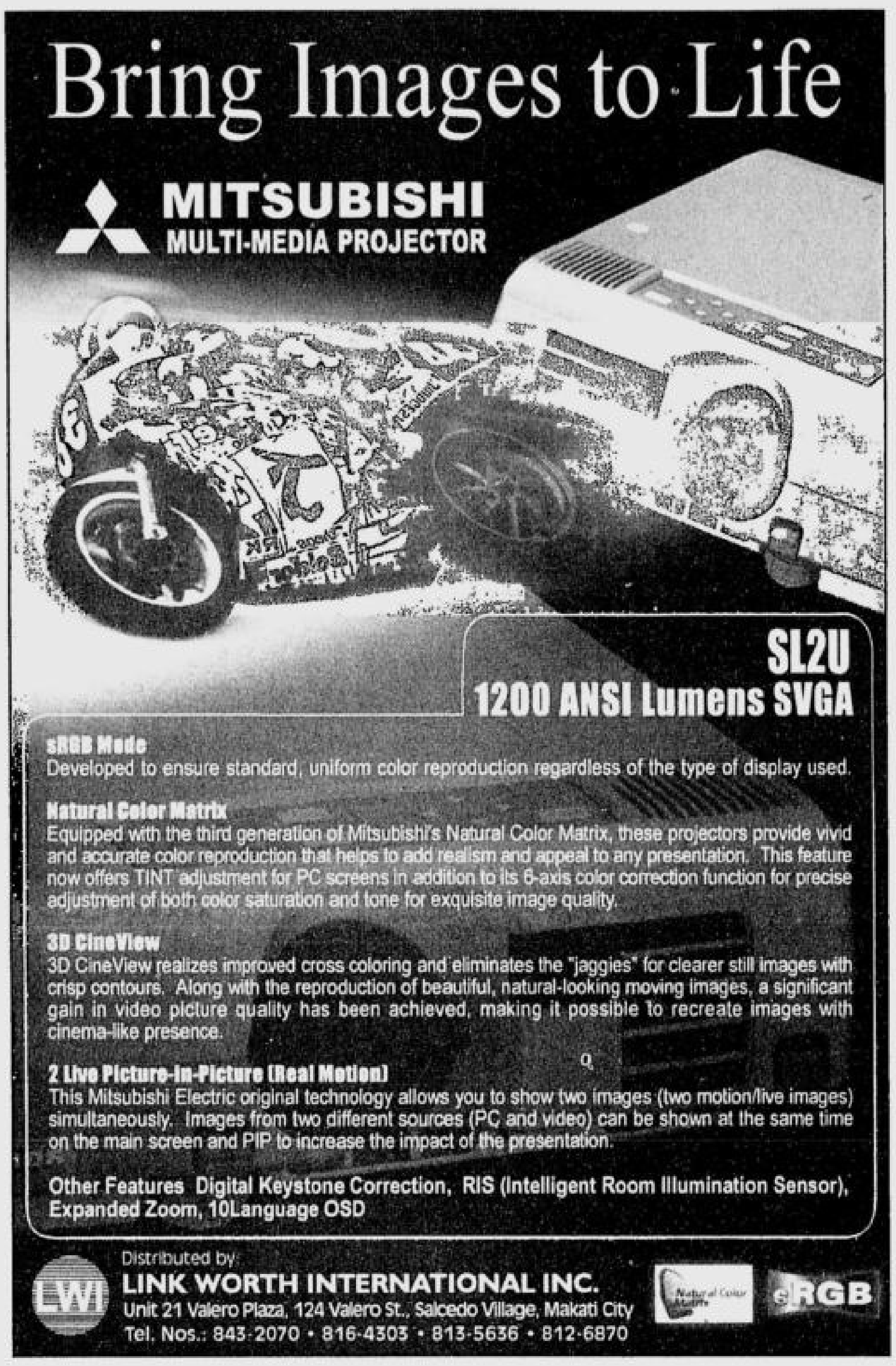
In Mitsubishi's case, Dizon said the Japanese headquarters decided it would be more feasible to focus the Lancer's production in Thailand for sale throughout the Asean market. Although the Lancer has been assembled in the Philippines for nearly 25 years, its domestic volume is so small compared to Thailand's annual output that consolidation of operations was inevitable.

Dizon said the company has yet to decide which model would fill the void left by the Lancer in its Cainta plant. Last year, the INQUIRER reported that Mitsubishi was seriously considering to shift its Asian utility vehicle (AUV) production in Indonesia to the Philippines in line with its plan to make the country its AUV production hub in the region.

Other local assemblers are likely to follow Mitsubishi's lead and fine-tune their Asean operations. Honda Cars Philippines Inc. had recently leased a warehouse inside the Subic Freeport Zone and this fanned speculation that it was also planning to pull the plug on the local assembly of one of its existing models.

At its peak, the Lancer used to hit more than 1,000 units in sales a month but this steadily dropped over the last few years to a measly 200 units in 2002 as the competition rolled out sleeker models and undertook more aggressive marketing programs.

Despite its weak performance in the passenger car category, Mitsubishi remained the second biggest assembler in the country behind Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., which dominated both the car and commercial vehicle segments. Mitsubishi had sales of 16,282 units for a 19-percent market share largely due to its AUV model, the Adventure.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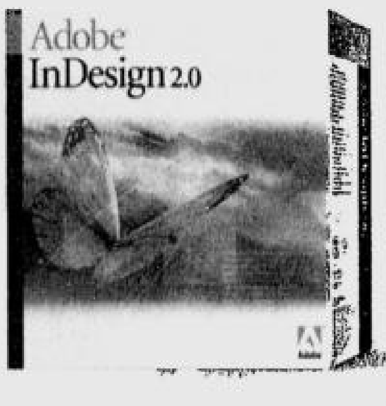

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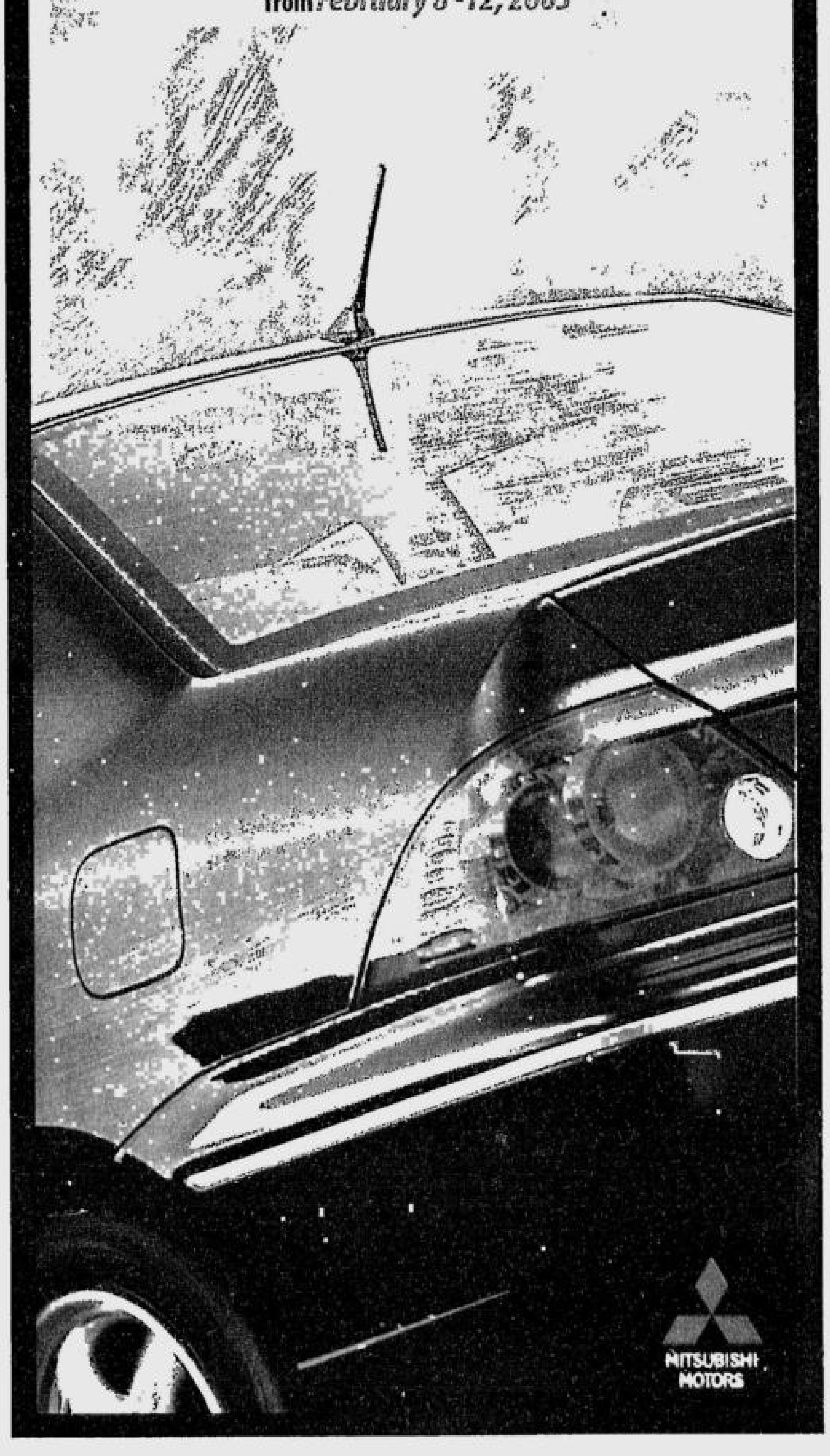

Interest rates to rise this year

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

THE UNITED States almost went to war with Iraq last week because of a simple typist error. The incident has been kept from the world press but I got it from my mole aboard the typhoid carrier, Anthrax. The weapons inspectors reported that they had discovered warheads with fission chips. For those who are not conversant with this term, it means pellets of enriched uranium or plutonium used in the manufacture of nuclear devices. On receiving this information, President Bush ordered the six aircraft carriers to launch their planes. Five minutes later came a frantic message to abort the attack. What the weapons inspectors had actually said was that they had found warheads with fish 'n chips, served for lunch in the canteen. The President was so frustrated that he started Bush fires all over Australia.

A satellite flying over the Venezuelan capital picked up the following conversation between a psychiatrist and his patient. "Doctor, I feel like a biscuit." "Are you square and slightly salty?" "Si." "Do people put cheese on you?" "Si, si." "There's no doubt about it, you're Caracas."

A stockbroker friend has just had a liver flush. Had he been playing poker, he would have won a fortune because a liver flush beats a straight flush. He does this periodically to cleanse himself of insider information, some of which is abdominable (belly funny). First, you have to cleanse your colon, or if part of it has been removed, you semi-colon. Then, you have to give yourself coffee enemas, not decaffeinated, or with milk and sugar. If you can't do this by yourself, urine trouble. He actually went to Starbucks and asked a waitress to give him a hand. She assisted him, left and promised to return. After 30 minutes, there was a knock on the door, it was a friend dropping by. An hour later, there was another knock, and he yelled out "Are you friend or enema?" The next day, he had the gall to detoxify his kidneys while listening to The Stones. If you don't understand any of this, I will exspleen. Some of the jokes are offal.

The Russian delegate is not going to the UN meeting on Iraq. He has a bladder infection and is in the Urals.

I loved the end of "Die Another Day," when James Bonded with Halle Berry. He puts small diamonds in her navel and kisses it. This is not kinky. After all, he is a navel officer. Limerick time:

There was a young girl of Penzance
Who decided to take just one chance.
So she let herself go
In the arms of her beau;
Now all of her sisters are aunts.

* * *

A publisher once went to France
In search of a hopeful romance:
A Parisian lady
Told a story so shady
That the publisher made an advance.

It has been a pretty awful week in the stock market. The index has fallen steadily and there has been barely any trading. What you might call a bare market. The budget deficit for 2002 was a staggering P213 billion, and the national debt now stands at P2.8 trillion; a nice legacy to leave our children. For 2003, the deficit is expected to be almost the same, P203 billion; and for 2004, P194 billion (I have omitted the centavos). Interest payments ate up 25 percent of our income and will increase steadily, as the government will not be able to balance the budget for at least three years, probably 10.

In 2002, the average interest rate on the bellwether 91-day treasury bill was 5.9 percent, and P43 billion was borrowed in the domestic market. This year, the government needs another $1.4 billion overseas, using dollar-linked bonds, and P130 billion from the local market. This will put intense pressure on interest rates, which the central bank governor, Mr. Buenaventura, has forecast will rise to between 8 percent and 9 percent. As the 91-day treasury bill rate determines the lending rate to borrowers, companies, and people with floating mortgage rates, the effect will be to slow down economic growth and make mortgages more expensive. This, in turn, will hit the property market and stocks, also companies with high levels of debt. Not an encouraging scenario for 2003 and this does not take into account the war with Iraq, which might send oil prices soaring.

However, there is a glimmer of hope. President Macapagal is beginning to move and carry out some of the measures she promised. Warehouses have been closed down to reduce smuggling, a major cause of lost revenue. And the BIR is going after companies which have not been paying taxes. Mabuhay Vinyl has just lost an appeal and will have to pay P119 million in taxes. There will be no vinyl dividend this year. But it is the large companies and certain individuals whom she must go after if she wants to make a dent in the deficit. The imposition of a 10-percent VAT on actors will not hurt them. Lawyers will add it on and not declare it. I do not agree with charging doctors, as this will simply make it more difficult for the poor to afford a consultation.

Wall Street had a pretty horrible week but the Nasdaq recovered strongly despite several companies refusing to give guidance for 2003, or stating that they could not see any recovery this year. Texas Instruments came out with an encouraging report, but AT&T reported a much greater loss than had been expected and the shares fell 19 percent. Despite AT&T's woes, the Dow woes 50 points.

During the period 1950 to 2000, the price earnings ratio on the S&P 500 averaged 16.2 and the figure for the UK was similar. Just before the Gulf war, the P/E ratio was only 15. At present, it is 28, and even if profits rise by 10.8 percent, as analysts expect, the market looks distinctly overpriced. I am nervous of the US market, particularly if there is a war with Iraq that does not go as planned.

My two slots were rapidly snapped up but another subscriber had a fatal heart attack laughing at my jokes. *Comments to mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of January 24, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	13,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	19,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	36.5	37	36.5	37	430,900
China Banking Corp.	635	640	630	630	23,630
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	26.5	26	26	18,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	30.5	30	30.5	86,600
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	100	100	100	100	300
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	120,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	600
Union Bank of the Phil.	17	17	17	17	15,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	80,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1005	1005	1005	1005	920
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	4,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.41	0.42	0.41	0.42	750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	495	495	495	495	1,220
Ipeople, Inc	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.025	0.026	0.025	0.026	500,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	312.5	315	312	5 315	26,230
Ivantage Corp.	.3	000 .3	0.3	0.3	300,000
Philweb Corp	.0110	.011	.011	.011	500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.7	353,000
Manila Electric Co. B	12.25	12.5	12	12.5	916,800
Petron Corp.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.64	378,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	140,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	277,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	79,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	200
RFM Corp.	.6900	.69	.69	.69	120,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57.5	155,600
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64	63.5	64	87,400
Vitarich Corp.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.35	4.35	4.25	4.3	470,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	102,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
A. Soriano Corp.	.5300	.53	.53	.53	4,280,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	410,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	480,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.013	0.015	0.013	0.015	1,200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	9.4	9.4	9.2	9.3	110,000
Ionics Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	50,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	414,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	1,180,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	6,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	280,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	243,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	8,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	.3000	3	.3	.3	400,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	740,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (PDR)	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	1,000
Jollibee Warrants	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
WGA - Preferred	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	1,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.1	5	5	1,132,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.94	0.95	0.93	0.94	1,450,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	18,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	760,000
MINING					
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1	1	1	1	600,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.23	3,630,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	440,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.32	0.34	0.32	0.33	3,170,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	31,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	5,000,000
Pacifica	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	6,000,000
South China Resources Inc	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	821,350	38,718,650.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	15,371,450	48,415,915.00
PRO	141,580,000	37,213,380.00
Mining	8,040,000	2,662,200.00
OIL	42,020,000	138,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	207,832,800	127,149,045.00

AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	381.55	DOWN 1.77
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,493.15	UP 4.33
PRO	453.30	UNCH 0.00
Mining	1,374.99	UP 42.01
OIL	1.08	UP 0.03
All Shares Index	643.31	UP 0.49
Composite	1,050.42	UP 1.89

NO. OF ADVANCES: 25; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 73; NO. OF TRADES: 769

IMF sees lower growth

From page B1

Philippines' problems with statistics.

Sources said the IMF emerged more bearish on the Philippines after its regular check-up last month as part of the country's post-loan arrangement, fueling doubts as to how the IMF really felt about the country and its prospects.

The IMF placed at 3.5 percent the expected growth for both GDP and gross national product against the government's target of 4.2 to 5.2 percent and 4.5 to 5.8 percent.

During the December visit, the IMF admitted it was concerned about the Philippines' fiscal problem but believed that macroeconomic conditions had remained favorable considering the worsening external situation.

However, it urged the government to increase tax collection and look for alternative sources of revenue. Taxing the telecommunications sector, particularly text messaging services, was suggested by the IMF in December but was rejected by the government.

The outlook of the IMF on inflation at 4.3 percent was better than the government's target of 4.5-5.5 percent.

Last year, the IMF's inflation forecast of 3.1 percent hit the actual average. Its GDP growth outlook of 4 percent was also within the government's 4-4.5 percent target.

Treasury eyes more $-linked bonds

From page B3

The base coupon rate of the last dollar-linked issue was pegged at 7.375 percent, lower than the 7.56 percent in December while the benchmark exchange rate for the recent bonds was set at P53.382 to a dollar.

The coupon rate is the yield periodically paid to investors. The benchmark foreign exchange would be the basis in paying back investors the principal amount upon maturity as well as during interest payout, which is every six months.

Dollar-linked bonds allow investors a chance to protect the value of their peso investments.

Edeza said additional sale of dollar-linked bonds would raise funds for the government and at the same time help buoy the local currency and improve investor confidence.

"Most of the foreign exchange dealers are looking at a depreciating peso, which will continue to make dollar-linked bonds attractive," said a fixed-income trader.

First offered to local investors in November 2001, dollar-linked instruments are low-earning, peso-denominated bonds that pay investors an interest rate comparable to prevailing rates of dollar-denominated Philippine bonds of similar maturity.

Stocks seen drifting sideways

From page B1

Investors will also await the release of the Philippine economic growth report for 2002 on Thursday (Jan. 30) as well as the 2002 4th quarter corporate earnings by listed companies.

For her part, Licaros said there might still be some trading opportunities on selected blue chips.

For instance, she said investors would likely scoop up Meralco "B" if its share price would go down to P11.50 from Friday's closing of P12.50.

"Probably PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.) will find buying support at the P300 level. PLDT will be steady," Licaros said. PLDT closed at P315 on Friday.

BPI Securities said in its weekly report that the market would likely maintain its downward bias this week, with initial support at 1,040.

"Whether or not this index support will hold will depend on what new developments will arise in Iraq, the local economy and corporate earnings," BPI Securities said.

"Continued decline to next support at 1000 is still possible as investors wait out this current consolidation and to await for more attractive price points before re-accumulating,". it said.

Doris C. Dumlao

CURRENCIES

Jan. 24, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.929282	1.000000	53.692000
Japan	Yen	0.007873	0.008472	0.454900
United Kingdom	Pound	1.508782	1.623600	87.174300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.119154	0.128222	6.884500
Switzerland	Franc	0.682693	0.734646	39.444600
Canada	Dollar	0.609565	0.655953	35.219400
Singapore	Dollar	0.536692	0.577534	31.009000
Australia	Dollar	0.549383	0.591191	31.742200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.465069	2.652661	142.426700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.247822	0.266681	14.318600
Brunei	Dollar	0.535146	0.575871	30.919700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000113	0.006100
Thailand	Baht	0.021794	0.023452	1.259200
UAE	Dirham	0.253010	0.272264	14.618400
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.076100	57.778000
Argentina	Peso	0.295949	0.318471	17.099300
Brazil	Real	0.264001	0.284091	15.253400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134456	0.144688	7.768600
India	Rupee	0.019433	0.020912	1.122800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.244580	0.263193	14.131400
Mexico	New Peso	0.086606	0.093197	5.003900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.508304	0.546986	29.368800
Norway	Kroner	0.133814	0.143997	7.731500
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016036	0.017256	0.926500
South Africa	Rand	0.106925	0.115062	6.177900
Korea	Won	0.000797	0.000858	0.046100
Sweden	Kroner	0.108144	0.116374	6.248400
Syria	Pound	0.018044	0.019417	1.042500
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.026928	0.028977	1.555800
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000484	0.000521	0.028000

Cocktales

From page B3

lord of Tagaytay Highlands, is very strict in preserving the character of the mountain resort since he himself now spends weekends there, Tiu added.

Apparently, there is a Great Wall-of-sort between Tagaytay Highlands and Taal Vista Lodge/casino, another Sy project on the other side of the Rotunda that is open and quite popular to the paying public.

And in contrast to the public face of Sy's SM malls of concrete boxes with not a single tree in them, the taipan has already ordered the planting of 3,888 pine trees (the 50-year plan envisions one million trees within the 1,200-hectare complex) to transform that corner of Tagaytay into a mini-Baguio, minus the urban sprawl and inadequate infrastructure that now hobble the City of Pines.

Tiu would not comment on the reported protests of ex-Trade Secretary Jose Pardo and Bro. Mike Velarde over the construction of a cluster of mid-rise condominiums overlooking their cottages.

(Incidentally, the Prietos, who are neighbors to Pardo, say they are comfortable with the taipan's vision for the complex.)

He said Sy himself has been meeting with Pardo and company to address their specific concerns.

Bobby bounces back

ROBERTO Ongpin seems to have recovered from his Erap-era funk.

The Marcos-era trade minister has quietly snagged a contract for his publicly listed PhilWeb to provide Internet-based games for the state gaming agency, Pagcor.

According to the grapevine, Philweb took over the Sage Internet contract that had been forged with the Erap-era Pagcor.

Philweb started this month offering a betting game based on popular NBA/PBA game endings via its pre-paid Internet cards that would in turn be played through the Pagcor, Philweb or even private terminals.

PhilWeb's website was quiet about the Pagcor business. Neither was there any on the disclosure section of the Philippine Stock Exchange website, although the Philweb game is being regularly advertised through the Solar Sports UHF TV channel.

The Philweb game is apparently a legalized version of the "ending" game that is said to be popular in the Visayas.

Heard through the grapevine

AYALA Land wants the government to shoulder the cost of a proposed interchange that would connect Ayala Greenfields, its new housing complex at the foot of Mt. Makiling, with the proposed extension of the South Luzon and Star expressways to Batangas.

PNCC is naturally balking, since the major real estate developers like Filinvest, Metro Pacific, and Rockwell all paid for and built their own flyovers/interchanges leading to their respective townsites.

Besides, if the Ayalas would have their way, PNCC would have no choice but to pass on the cost of the proposed interchange to the motoring public via higher toll rates.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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CANYON WOODS	-	160,000 00
CALIRAYA GOLF	330 000 00	-
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	175 000 00	-
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CLUB FILIPINO	150 000 00	
EAGLE RIDGE "A"	300 000 00	
FONTANA "C"	150 000 00	
FONTANA "D"	50 000 00	
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METRO CLUB	100 000 00	
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ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	Please call	Please call
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	Please call	-
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PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	80 000 00	
PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "A"	90 000 00	
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200 000 00	
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ROYALE CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	70 000 00	Please call
SUBIC YACHT CLUB	Please call	
STA ELENA GOLF CLUB	-	1,300 000 00
SPA & LODGE*	650 000 00	Please call
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB	850 000 00	-
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS*	-	Please call
THE COUNTRY CLUB	-	Please call
VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB "C"	Please call	-
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	290 000 00	-
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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,300,000	1,400,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,350,000	1,500,000
Baguio Country Club	620,000	650,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	60,000	80,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	220,000	240,000
Canlubang	-	500,000
Canyonwoods	-	180,000
Capitol Hills	90,000	110,000
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	185,000
Club Filipino	110,000	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	180,000	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	275,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	10,500,000	12,600,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,200,000	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,400,000	2,850,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	500,000	600,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	730,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	630,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	110,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	100,000	130,000
Mimosa (Individual)	100,000	135,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	250,000	325,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	35,000
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	300,000
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)	-	450,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Punta Fuego	400,000	540,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Rockwell	320,000	360,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	50,000	70,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	75,000	90,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	170,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,550,000
Sta. Elena "B"		1,650,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	330,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	600,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	130,000	170,000
Valley Golf	260,000	300,000
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CR-V reclassification cost gov't P1.5B, senator says

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CR-V: A tax drain?

THE GOVERNMENT lost over P1.5 billion in foregone revenues last year due to tax breaks lavished on the Honda CR-V with its reclassification from a sport-utility vehicle to an Asian-utility vehicle.

In a news statement, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said the government's decision to exempt the Honda CR-V from the excise tax was questionable in view of its ballooning budget deficit, which swelled to P212.7 billion in the first 11 months of last year, 45 percent higher than the P147-billion gap the previous year.

The estimated P1.5 billion in foregone revenues were based on the P218,698 excise tax that Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI) should have paid for each of the 7,125 2002 CR-V units it sold since the 10-seater model was introduced in March last year.

The tax exemption has allowed HCPI to slash the CR-V's sticker price from P1.2 million to P899,000 per unit.

This has resulted in a 400-percent increase in sales of the CR-V and hefty losses for the cash-starved government.

HCPI has maintained that it has complied with all pertinent government regulations in availing of the tax exemption, noting that the Department of Trade and Industry has endorsed the change in its status and the Bureau of Internal Revenue has confirmed its tax-exempt status.

HCPI doubled the CR-V's seating capacity—it is sold in other countries as a five-seater—to be eligible for the 10-seater rule, which exempts from the excise tax vehicles that can accommodate at least nine passengers and one driver.

Congress is currently reviewing a bill proposing a shift in the vehicle tax system from engine-size to value that the Department of Finance estimates will generate P232 million in additional revenues a year, or 10 percent of the over P2 billion in excise taxes collected from motor vehicles.

The 10-seater rule is expected to be abolished if Congress agrees to change the vehicle tax system.

The bill is expected to face rough sailing in Congress, as a number of lawmakers have criticized the bill for its meager revenue increment and for being pro-rich.

Shell balks at steep cost of Malampaya's crude

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COST of the technology needed to draw out oil from Malampaya may be too high to make the project viable, according to the Royal Dutch/Shell group.

In an interview on Friday, Royal Dutch/Shell managing director Malcolm Brinded said his group was carefully studying the case, but that it had no plan as yet to extract oil from Malampaya.

According to Shell, about 30 million barrels of crude may be recovered from the area.

"(This) depends on finding the technology that would be economic to unlock the oil rim and the economic circumstances around that opportunity to make it happen," Brinded said.

He said apart from technological issues, Shell would also want to discuss with the government the incentives it was willing to give for the project.

"But we will come to that once we are sure that we have (a way of recovering the oil) that would work," Brinded said.

Facundo Roco, deputy managing director of Shell Philippines Exploration BV (Spex), said Spex wanted to exploit the oil despite its relatively small quantity because this would provide a psychological boost for the local economy.

"But we have to be assured that the cost of recovering the oil would not exceed the market price of the oil," Roco said.

Brinded said the success of the Malampaya project would serve as a beacon that would tell international business about foreign direct investments in the Philippines.

In December 2001, Spex announced that it successfully drew out oil from Malampaya, with at least 8,000 barrels recovered within two days of the first flow.

This was considered to be the highest production oil from a single well in the country. Yet, production went up to about 20,000 barrels a day once the flow stabilized.

Over six months, the Malampaya consortium, which includes Spex, Texaco Philippines and PNOC Exploration Corp., produced about 2 million barrels sold to a refiner in South Korea.

Cable TV firms seek cut in Meralco's P60-M fee

By Abigail L. Ho

CABLE television operators that pay at least P60 million to lease the Manila Electric Co.'s electric posts have asked the power firm for an arrangement that will cut the amount by as much as 75 percent.

Philippine Cable Television Association president J. Manuel Dabao said under current arrangements, cable operators were paying P250 per Meralco post, whether used or unused.

Cable operators put their hubs and their cables on these posts. In a certain area, though, not all posts are actually used.

Because of this, cable operators end up paying for posts that they do not even use, bloating operational expenses while leaving revenues stagnant.

"That's why we met with Meralco to come up with a new arrangement. Every year, one months' subscription per subscriber goes to Meralco by way of lease payments for its electric posts," Dabao told the INQUIRER.

With the new arrangement, cable operators only have to pay for the posts that they actually use, provided that they give Meralco a detailed plan specifying which posts these are.

While cable operators were still preparing their detailed plans, Dabao said the power distributor agreed to cut the rate for unused posts to half at only P125.

A series of discussions brought this figure down further to only P62.50 per unused post.

Dabao disclosed that cable operators' revenues had remained stagnant over the years because of rampant signal piracy and skyrocketing expenses.

US funds sought to roll out matchmaking plan

THE PHILIPPINE Small and Medium Business Development Foundation (Philsmed) is seeking funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAid) to implement a matchmaking program with the US Chamber of Commerce.

The program is expected to help establish long-term business relationsips between Filipino and American businessmen.

Philsmed president Mina Gabor said the USAid funding was crucial in implementing the matchmaking program in the Philippines that would require close to P50 million in annual funding for the next three years.

"We (the SMEs) really need this program in order to build our capacities and penetrate overseas markets," Gabor said.

Philsmed is a private-led organization composed of 2,000 SMEs formed in 1992 to promote the interest of small Filipino businessmen. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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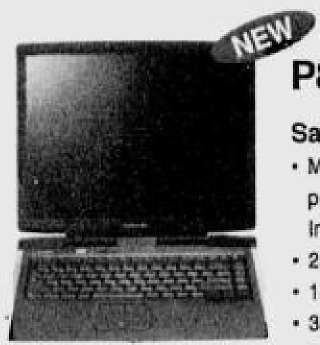

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Be corporate conscience, SEC chief tells auditors

By Michelle V. Remo

FOLLOWING corporate scandals that hounded the international corporate sector last year, Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista is calling for a shift in the role of company internal auditors from merely being the "risk police" to being the "conscience of corporations."

She said the expected role in internal auditing should not be limited to identifying economic risks and advising on how to eliminate those risks, but should instead extend to ensuring that the management meet organizational goals and objectives.

Bautista called for business organizations to adhere to the Code of Corporate Governance, which sought to include reliability and integrity in internal auditing in its assessment of adequacy and effectiveness of an organization's operations.

She said, though, that the call for internal audit teams to become the "conscience" of business organizations was a "very tall order" since internal audit teams traditionally work with—not against—the management.

The SEC chair cited WorldCom, a US-based telecommunications giant, as an example on how an internal auditor assumed the role of a corporate watchdog.

The internal auditor of WorldCom, Cynthia Cooper, was the one who uncovered WorldCom's financial woes.

51 listed companies found violating accounting standards

By Elena R. Torrijos

FIFTY-ONE out of a sample of 131 publicly listed companies have violated major accounting standards, a review of the companies' 2001 financial statements has showed

The Securities and Exchange Commission, which commissioned a team of experts from the University of the Philippines to conduct the review, will send this week letters to the listed companies concerned advising them of the team's findings and requesting them to explain their side.

"We shall require that the findings be furnished to the (company's board of) directors, and that the board take note of the findings and the course of action to be made by the company," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said in a news briefing late last week.

If the companies do not give a valid explanation or do not rectify their mistakes despite the SEC's demand, Bautista said, they will be penalized.

In general, the accounting violations bloated the asset and profit figures reported by these companies, SEC general accountant Roberto Manabat said.

Manabat explained that the SEC wanted the companies' boards involved in addressing the accounting issues because the comptrollers or finance officers might keep the findings to themselves.

"We want to give that message that these are serious findings and therefore they demand serious attention," Manabat pointed out.

SEC officials declined to identify the allegedly erring publicly listed companies, citing due process.

The most important and frequent violations based on the review were: non-disclosure of amounts of material related party transactions; inadequate disclosures on assets used as security loans; and, missing or defective Rule 68 schedules.

The SEC's amended Rule 68 provides the form and content of financial statements to be filed with the SEC.

Manabat said the non-disclosure of related party transactions was a very serious offense in light of how Enron Corp.'s transactions were peppered with self-dealing, which subsequently led to the US energy giant's bankruptcy.

The SEC would also ask external auditors to explain why inadequate disclosure on material items was not considered grounds for making a "qualified" opinion of the financial statements of the publicly listed companies, Manabat said.

House orders NTC to open FM radio band

THE HOUSE of Representatives has ordered the National Telecommunications Commission to revise current FM radio standards and open the FM spectrum to more players.

In a statement issued over the weekend, Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto Paras, chair of the House committee on transportation and communications, said more players in the FM radio industry would mean more revenues for the government through additional spectrum users' fees.

"It's about time the NTC reviews its policy and moves forward. One of the objectives in granting these (additional) frequencies is to generate additional revenue for the NTC," he said.

According to NTC data, there are currently 25 radio stations operating on all available FM frequencies in Metro Manila. Another 24 stations can be added to the FM band if the NTC adopts a 400-kilohertz separation standard between stations. *Abigail L. Ho*

Meat processors predict P6-B sales increase

THE COUNTRY's biggest meat processors have expressed confidence their combined sales this year will grow by some P6 billion this year over last year's P40 billion.

In an interview, Philippine Association of Meat Processors executive director Francisco Buencamino predicted that the meat-processing industry could chalk up as much as P46 billion in sales this year.

Industry sales last year stood at P40 billion, up from 2001's P37 billion.

Pampi comprises 35 meat processors, including Purefoods-Hormel Co., RFM Foods Corp. and Jollibee Foods Corp.

Buencamino said the industry could post an even higher figure than P46 billion if not for weak consumer demand expected this year.

He added that industry sales could also be affected by a weaker local currency.

He said the government's decision to tighten its meat inspection process following reports of carabeef smuggling would also have a negative effect on the meat-processing industry's bottom line. *Christine A. Gaylican*

PLDT to help test Internet centers

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. is set to test three to five "community e-centers" that will later serve as models for the Department of Transportation and Communications' "community access program."

In a recent interview, Communications Undersecretary Virgilio Peña said PLDT would provide facilities for the tests that would be conducted.

The test centers will later serve as models that other interested parties can follow through either corporate social responsibility projects or actual business ventures, Peña said.

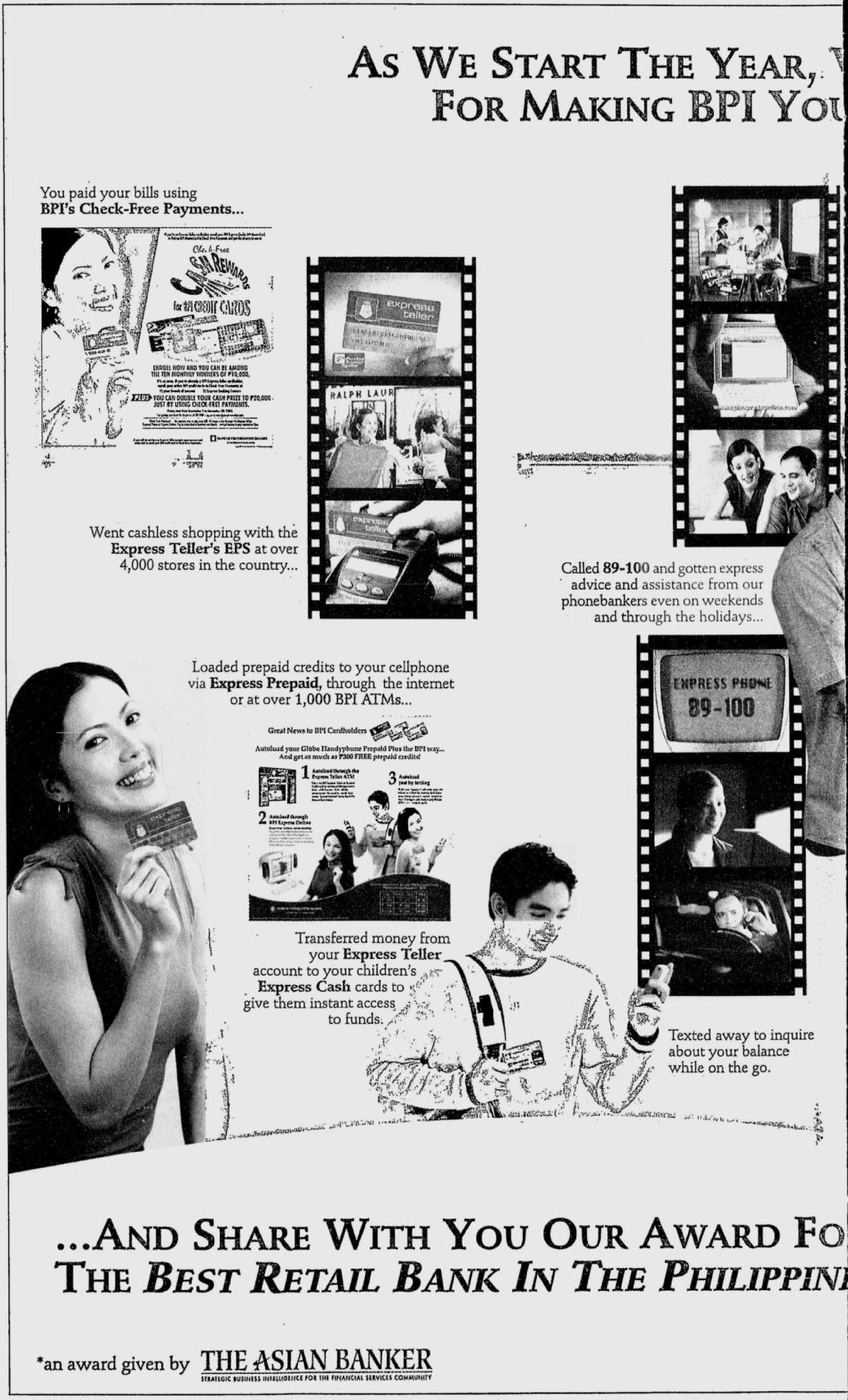
Formerly called "municipal telecenters," the community e-centers will provide not just access to telephones but also to computers and the Internet.

Peña said the DOTC decided to come up with a common brand—the community e-center—so that similar facilities would have a standard design that private companies could easily copy and operate as their own.

"The main objective of the program is to provide access to as many communities as we can. While we encourage the private sector to participate in this, the DOTC will also take the initiative for community e-centers in areas where there will be no takers," he said.

Funding for these would likely come from external sources, including Japan's official development assistance and the United States Agency for International Development.

Peña said the DOTC had no budget for communications this year.



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US Senate Democrats unveil economic plan

WASHINGTON—Criticizing President George W. Bush's plan to slash dividend taxes and top income tax rates, Senate Minority leader Tom Daschle on Friday unveiled a Democratic alternative that would give Americans an immediate,one-time $300 tax cut.

In a speech to the City Club of Cleveland, the South Dakota Democrat said Bush's $674 billion 10-year tax cut would inflict long-term damage on the economy by digging a "deficit ditch" that will eventually push interest rates higher.

A copy of the speech was released in Washington.

"With the baby boomers just a few years from retirement, at a time when we still face a serious challenge from Social Security and Medicare, plus urgent new homeland security challenges, we don't have a dollar to waste, the president is proposing that we take on $1.5 trillion in new debt -- which can only damage our long-term economic growth," Daschle said.

Bush has called for eliminating taxes investors pay on dividends, accelerating across-the-board income tax rate cuts and a $400-per-child increase in the tax credit for families with children.

Daschle and other Democrats call Bush's plan a costly sop to the rich and argue that it would provide little immediate boost to the country's lackluster growth because most of the benefit will affect the economy after this year.

Daschle said the Democratic alternative would be restricted to 2003 and inject $141 billion into the economy this year. He said Bush's plan would put about $36 billion into the economy this year.

With Republicans in control of both the House of Representatives and Senate, the Senate Democratic plan and similar plans outlined by other Democrats have little chance of passing.

But it gives them something to rally around as they attack Bush's plan. It also could provide a basis for reshaping the president's plan in the narrowly divided Senate where Democratic votes are needed to overcome procedural hurdles. *Reuters*

US economy slowly recovering, report says

NEW YORK—The US economy is slowly wiggling its way out of a rut but shaky investor confidence amid the looming threat of war in Iraq is holding back the recovery, a report said on Friday.

Higher initial jobless claims nudged the Economic Cycle Research Institute's weekly leading index just a notch lower to 119.5 in the week ended Jan. 17 from 119.6 the previous week. But its growth rate, which smooths out weekly fluctuations, rose to 1.5 percent from 1.8 percent.

ECRI's forward-looking economic barometer has rebounded from an October low of 114.9, but the growing prospect of an attack on Iraq has business leaders reluctant to ramp up production or hire new workers.

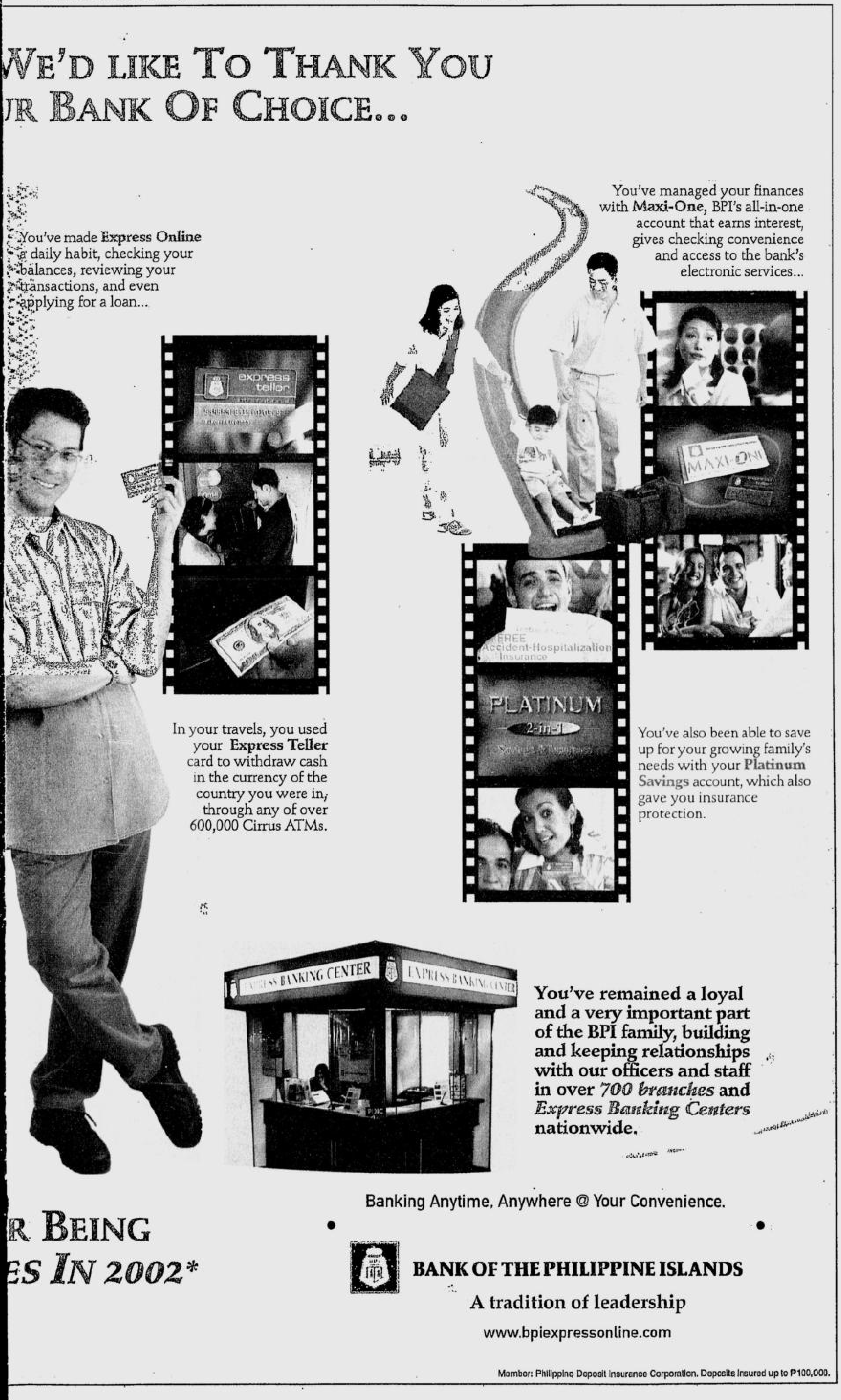
"The economy is being held hostage by geopolitical tensions," said Anirvan Banerji, ECRI research director.

The government said on Thursday that even more Americans lined up for jobless aid last week in a report that showed a stagnant picture of the labor market.

The Labor Department said first-time jobless claims—a guide to the job market and the pace of layoffs—rose by 18,000 to 381,000 in the week ended Jan. 18 from 363,000 for the prior week.

A separate leading indicator, published by research firm The Conference Board on Thursday, revealed a relatively stagnant economy in December, inching 0.1 percent higher.

The Weekly Leading Index is composed of a balance of seven major economic indicators. ECRI designs short- and long-term indexes aimed at predicting business cycles, recessions and recoveries in the world's leading economies. *Reuters*



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EU urged to adopt key reforms

DAVOS, Switzerland—Portugal on Friday urged the European Union to step up the adoption of ambitious economic reforms intended to make itself the world's most competitive economy by 2010.

"The economic growth slowdown, along with the confidence crises among consumers and entrepreneurs which has had its most visible expression in the performance of financial markets, impacted negatively the execution of the Lisbon strategy," Portuguese Economy Minister Carlos Tavares said during a speech to business and political leaders at the World Economic Forum..

EU member states agreed at a summit in the Portuguese capital in March 2000 on a strategy to make Europe the most competitive knowledge-based economy in the world by the end of the decade.

The plan, which became known as the "Lisbon strategy," included a substantial rise in research investment, measures to boost productivity and a reduction in regulations.

But reforms have been slow to come by as the economy has slowed down and Brussels began to focus its attentions on EU enlargement.

Tavares said other member states can look to Portugal for inspiration as he pointed out his center-right government has implemented a series of aggressive reforms, including the introduction of a flexible new labor code and faster industrial licensing system, since coming to power in April. *AFP*

GE makes leadership changes

BOSTON—General Electric Co. on Friday named new leadership at two lagging industrial units, plastics and transportation systems, and created a new position in Asia as the blue-chip conglomerate looks to reverse lackluster results.

The company named John Krenicki, 40, as the chief executive of GE Plastics, whose operating profit slid 28 percent last year. Krenicki replaces Yoshiaki Fujimori, 51, who was named president and chief executive officer of GE Asia.

Fujimori fills a new position that reports directly to GE chair Jeff Immelt, said GE spokesperson Peter Stack. Based in Tokyo, Fujimori's mission is to expand customer relationships and develop new business markets, GE said.

"It's been discussed in great detail that Asia, and in a large part China, are going to be hugely important to GE's growth overall going forward," Stack said.

GE created a similar position for Europe, the Middle East and Africa more than a year ago, winning praise from customers and company business units.

Under Fujimori, the performance of GE Plastics suffered as key raw material prices such as oil and benzene spiked.

Krenicki's job at GE Transportation Systems will be filled by Charlene Begley, 36, who formerly was president of GE-Fanuc Automation.

Revenue at GE Transportation Systems, a supplier to the rail and mining industries, declined 2 percent to $2.31 billion last year while operating profit rose slightly to $402 million.

GE's other industrial businesses include NBC television, aircraft engine manufacturing, light bulbs, home appliances and medical equipment.

Those overall operations in 2002 reported an 8-percent increase in revenue while operating profit rose 15 percent.

Last week, GE reported a 21 percent decline in fourth-quarter net income after taking a $1.4 billion charge at its reinsurance unit. *Reuters*

BREATHING ROOM

IMF gives Argentina $6.8B

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund said on Friday it has approved a short-term accord that will reschedule $6.78 billion of payments Argentina owes the lender in the coming months.

The lender said in a brief statement, issued after its executive board approved the deal, that the accord will reschedule payments that Argentina owes the fund through August.

The approval had been expected after the two sides reached agreement last week on a short-term accord after more than a year of tortuous talks to restart aid.

The lender said it hopes to negotiate a more comprehensive medium-term deal with the new Argentine government, which will take office in May after April elections.

"These actions were taken with the expectation that the transitional stand-by credit will be succeeded by a multiyear IMF arrangement after the election in late April 2003, of a new government," the IMF statement said.

The lender said any longer-term deal with the new government would be conditional on, "more comprehensive economic reforms in Argentina." The IMF said the new agreement included a new eight-month standby loan worth $2.98 billion—the amount Argentina owes the lender through the end of August. The IMF had already extended those payments by one year. That cash will then need to be repaid between 3.5 years and five years later.

The IMF said it also agreed to extend for one year another $3.8 billion that Argentina owes the IMF through August.

These actions help Argentina avoid a default with the international lender—something which was likely to have happened on Friday without the latest deal. Argentina had already defaulted on its commercial debts and its loans with the World Bank.

In return, Argentina promised to keep tight control on its budget, agreed to limit the printing of money and said it would only release frozen banking deposits if counteracting steps were taken to ensure such moves do not spark a surge in inflation, sources familiar with the pact said. *Reuters*

A COUPLE walk past traditional Chinese symbols of a boy and a girl, with hands clasped together in a greeting for wealth and prosperity on display along a Beijing street for the Lunar New Year festivities. People across China will celebrate the new Year of the Sheep Feb. 1 in traditional fashion as the greetings for prosperity become more of a reality in tune with China's fast growing economy. AFP

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

DAR Administrative Order 01
Series of 2003

SUBJECT : **2003 RULES GOVERNING ISSUANCE OF NOTICE OF COVERAGE AND ACQUISITION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS UNDER RA 6657.**

PREFATORY STATEMENT

The Notice of Coverage (NOC) commences the compulsory acquisition of private agricultural lands coverable under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). Along the various phases of the CARP proceedings, the process stalls because of Land Owner (LO) resistance, most of whom invoke the ground of lack of notice or non-observance of due process in attacking the proceedings. This Order aims to plug common loopholes in the coverage process to safeguard and ensure completion of the acquisition process.

PROCEDURE

1. Commencement

   1.1 *Commencement by the Municipal Agrarian Reform Officer (MARO)* – After determining that a landholding is coverable under the CARP, and upon accomplishment of the Pre-Ocular Inspection Report, the MARO shall prepare the NOC (CARP Form No. 5-A).

   1.2 *Commencement by a party*-- Any person may commence the proceedings herein by filing a petition for coverage before the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Regional Office (DARRO) or DAR Provincial Office (DARPO) of the region or province where the subject landholding is located. Upon receipt of a petition for coverage, the DARRO or DARPO shall transmit the case folder to the MARO of the municipality where the subject landholding is located. From then on, all rules herein pertaining to service of a copy of the NOC to the LO shall likewise apply to service of a copy of the petition for coverage to the LO.

2. The MARO shall post copies of the NOC for at least seven (7) days in the bulletin boards of the barangay hall and municipal/city hall where the property is located. The Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee (BARC) Chairperson and proper official of the municipal/city government shall issue the corresponding Certification of Posting Compliance.

3. Service of the NOC

   3.1 The MARO of the place where the subject landholding is located shall issue and order the service of the NOC to the LO in accordance with these rules.

   3.2 If the subject landholding and LO's residence are not in the same municipality or city, the MARO shall endorse the NOC to the MARO exercising jurisdiction over the place where the LO resides. The endorsee MARO shall then personally serve the NOC to the LO.

   3.3 In case of co-ownership, the MARO shall issue the NOC and personally serve copies thereof to each and every LO. If any or all co-landowners reside outside the municipality or city where the subject landholding is located but within the Philippines, the MARO shall endorse copies of the NOC to the MARO/s exercising jurisdiction over the place/s where each of the co-landowners resides. Thereupon, the endorsee MARO/s shall personally serve copies of the NOC to each of the respective co-landowners.

   3.4 If the LO's residence is outside the Philippines or unknown, the MARO of the place where the subject landholding is located shall arrange for a service by publication.

4. Receipt of service of the NOC

   4.1 *General Rule.*- The LO shall receive service of the NOC.
   4.2 *Service upon minors or incompetents.*- When the LO is a minor, insane or otherwise an incompetent, service shall be made upon him personally and on his legal guardian if he has one, or if none, upon his guardian *ad litem* whose appointment shall be applied for by the DAR. In the case of a minor, service may also be made on his father and/or mother.
   4.3 *Service upon entity without juridical personality.*-When the LOs are persons associated in an entity without juridical personality are sued under the name by which they are generally or commonly known, service may be effected upon all the LOs by serving upon any one of them, or upon the person in charge of the office or place of business maintained in such name. Such service shall not bind individually any person whose connection with the entity has, upon due notice, been severed before the action was brought.
   4.4 *Service upon domestic private juridical entity.*- When the LO is a corporation, partnership or association organized under the laws of the Philippines with a juridical personality, service may be made on the president, managing partner, general manager, corporate secretary, treasurer, or in-house counsel.
   4.5 *Service upon LO whose identity or whereabouts are unknown.*- In any action where the LO is designated as an unknown owner, or the like, or whenever his whereabouts are unknown and cannot be ascertained by diligent inquiry, service may be effected upon him by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in such places and for such time as the DAR may order.
   4.6 *Extraterritorial service.*- When the LO does not reside and is not found in the Philippines, or when the LO ordinarily resides within the Philippines but is temporarily out, service may be made by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in such places and for such time as the DAR may order.

5. Modes of service:

   5.1. *Personal service*- The MARO shall personally serve a copy of the NOC to the LO in person or tender the same if the LO refuses to receive the NOC for whatever reason.
   5.2 *Substituted service*- If service of the NOC directly to the LO is not practicable within a reasonable time, service may be made by leaving copies of the NOC at the LO's:

      5.2.1. residence with some person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein; or
      5.2.2. office or regular place of business with some competent person in charge thereof.

   5.3. *Service by publication*- If personal or substituted service is not practicable, service may be made by registered mail to the last known address of the LO and by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in such places and for such time as the DAR may order. The publication need not state the entire contents of the NOC but only the following essential particulars:

      5.3.1. Complete name/s of the LO/all LOs;
      5.3.2. Address or location of the subject landholding (barangay, municipality/city, province);
      5.3.3. The number of the Original or Transfer Certificate of Title (OCT or TCT) or latest Tax Declaration (TD) covering the subject landholding;
      5.3.4. A declaration that the Republic of the Philippines shall cover the subject landholding under the CARP;
      5.3.5. Case or reference number;
      5.3.6. A reasonable period of not less than sixty (60) days from publication date within which the LO must file a response to the NOC, with a warning that failure to do so within the period shall mean waiver of the right/privilege to: apply for exemption/exclusion or retention, nominate child/ren as beneficiary/ies, or submit evidence for determining just compensation; and
      5.3.7. Address of the office/s holding custody of the case records, or copies thereof, which shall be public documents available to the general public for photocopying during reasonable office hours, upon payment of reasonable reproduction costs and certification fees.

6. Proof of service:

   6.1. *Personal or substituted service.*- The proof of service of the NOC shall:

      6.1.1. be made in writing by the server;
      6.1.2. set forth the manner, place, and date of service;
      6.1.3. specify any papers which have been served with the process and the name of the person who received the same; and
      6.1.4. be sworn to when made by a person other than the MARO.

   6.2. *Proof of service by publication.*- If the service has been made by publication, service may be proved by the affidavit of the printer, his foreman or principal clerk, or of the editor, business or advertising manager, to which affidavit a copy of the publication shall be attached, and by an affidavit showing the deposit of a copy of the NOC and order for publication in the post office, postage prepaid, directed to the LO by registered mail to his last known address.

7. *Voluntary appearance.*- The LO's voluntary appearance in the action shall be equivalent to service of NOC.

8. Upon receipt of the Memorandum of Valuation from the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and Claim Folder Profile and Valuation Summary (MOV-CFPVS), the Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer (PARO) sends a Notice of Land Valuation & Acquisition (NLVA) to the LO in accordance with the same service procedures herein, attaching a copy of the MOV-CFPVS, and requiring the LO to submit documents required for payment of claims using CARP Form No. 10.

9. The PARO shall furnish a copy of the NLVA to the Register of Deeds (ROD) with a request for its annotation at the back of the corresponding title covered by the MOV-CFPVS. The ROD secures the title from the CARP Volume, if already segregated from the regular volume, and proceeds to annotate the NLVA subject of the request of PARO.

REPEALING CLAUSE

This Order amends DAR Administrative Order No. 2, Series of 1996 and Administrative Order No.1, Series of 1998, and all other orders or circulars inconsistent herewith.

EFFECTIVITY

This Order shall take effect ten (10) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, pursuant to Section 49 of RA 6657.

16 January 2003, Diliman, Quezon City.

HERNANI A. BRAGANZA
Secretary

Inquirer–January 27, 2003

Kmart files bankruptcy exit plan, sees profit

CHICAGO—Discount retailer Kmart Corp. on Friday filed its plan for getting out of bankruptcy, vowing to return to profitability by 2004 and pinning at least part of the blame for its financial troubles on the actions of certain former managers.

Kmart said its plan, filed with the federal bankruptcy court in Chicago, calls for two key creditors to invest about $293.4 million in exchange for stock in the reorganized company.

In a filing with the bankruptcy court in Chicago, Kmart said a review of how former managers ran the company found "credible and persuasive" evidence that some had violated their responsibilities to the company.

At issue in the so-called "stewardship review" are millions of dollars in loans given out to top executives shortly before Kmart declared bankruptcy a year ago, and allegations—raised by anonymous letter writers—of accounting irregularities.

Kmart said in the filing it may have legal claims against some former officers "on grounds that they were grossly derelict in performing their duties to the company, its associates, its vendors and its investors."

In the court documents, Kmart said an unnamed former senior executive oversaw $850 million in "excessive purchases of inventory" without consulting with Kmart's treasury officials.

Kmart said the purchases "substantially contributed to Kmart's liquidity crisis in the fall of 2001." The filing also alleged that certain former managers underpaid vendors, inflated financial forecasts, and bought corporate aircraft and used them for personal trips.

As part of the reorganization, Kmart said it plans to issue up to 500 million new shares and cancel its existing ones once the plan is approved.

Creditors will receive the bulk of those shares while existing shareholders would receive at most 2.5 percent. Kmart has said the existing shares will likely be worthless, however.

The retailer said last week its stewardship review had found evidence that the loan program was set up without proper disclosure to the board of directors.

Kmart is also being investigated by the US Securities and Exchange Commission, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the House Energy and Commerce Committee. *Reuters*

Fiat founder Agnelli dies at 81

TURIN, Italy—Gianni Agnelli, the stylish Italian industrialist who transformed Fiat into a global powerhouse but whose failing health in recent years mirrored the group's decline, died on Friday at the age of 81.

Once a flamboyant playboy who became Italy's most dominant businessman, Agnelli was deeply attached to Fiat's core car arm founded by his grandfather and analysts said his death could now help clear the way for a possible sale of the loss-making unit.

Agnelli, known to Italians simply as "l'avvocato" or the lawyer, had been suffering from prostate cancer. His death opened the way for his brother Umberto, 68, to take more influence over the group which spans jet engines and electricity to Ferrari sports cars and newspapers.

Tributes flooded in for the silver-haired patriarch who was a constant figurehead through years of political instability and whose cars were a symbol of Italy's post-war industrial rebirth.

"Gianni Agnelli was a champion of Italian businessmen and regal figure on the world stage," Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi told reporters. "He was a master of style, someone who cultivated and promoted beautiful things." His death before dawn at his Turin villa came just hours before the Agnelli clan were due to meet to discuss the worst crisis in its century-old stewardship of the company.

Gianni's coffin was due to be taken to Fiat's former Lingotto car factory in Turin before a private funeral on Sunday. Once the center of Fiat's car business, the huge plant has been turned into a hotel, conference center and shopping mall, a symbol of the group's diversification led by Agnelli.

AGNELLI AP

Flags flew at half-mast at Fiat buildings and Italian soccer teams were due to observe a minute of silence before this weekend's games. The Agnellis head the mighty Juventus club.

A trade union representing Fiat workers suspended a two-hour strike due on Friday, part of bitter protests over the group's decision to lay off thousands of car workers.

Once Europe's biggest carmaker, Fiat is now in crisis after sales at its car arm Fiat Auto tumbled, pushing the group into loss and raising concerns about its debt.

Fiat shares—which in December slumped to nearly 20-year lows—rose more than 6 percent on Friday morning after the announcement.

Last year, rumors of Agnelli's death periodically pushed up Fiat shares on expectations that without him Fiat would be more likely to sell its car unit to US partner General Motors Corp.

Fiat sold a 20-percent stake in Fiat Auto to GM in 2000 and the group has an option to sell GM the rest from 2004.

There has been recent speculation Fiat might drop the option in return for cash from GM toward a recapitalization. *Reuters*

DATA-HEAVY WEEK

US Fed meet, German survey to set market tone

LONDON—A US Federal Reserve interest rate meeting will take center-stage in a US data-heavy week and Germany's Ifo business sentiment survey will be watched for signs of whether European economies are still in the doldrums.

Throughout the week, markets will also be watching developments in the Iraq crisis with Monday's United Nations weapons' inspectors report a key focus.

The Fed meets for two days, beginning on Tuesday, and is expected to keep interest rates on hold. However, markets will be watching for any shift in the Fed's view of the economy.

"There's potentially a significant development to come with the Fed decision on Wednesday," said Ken Wattret, chief euro land market economist at BNP Paribas in London.

"The Federal Open Market Committee could well shift from a neutral interest rates bias towards stressing the downside risks to growth."

The Federal Reserve cut interest rates by half a percentage point to 1.25 percent in November and changed its monetary policy bias to neutral from easing, leading markets to believe it would not cut interest rates in the near future.

In a slew of US data, investors will pay especially close attention to Thursday's first estimates of fourth quarter gross domestic product figures.

Tuesday's US durable goods orders are likely to be a key indicator for the near-term outlook for US economic recovery.

Economists expect a 0.8 percent rise in December after a revised 1.5 percent fall the previous month.

Consumer sentiment figures and the Chicago Purchasing Managers' Index will provide other key elements of the economic picture.

Analysts said economic data this week ought to be seen in the light of geopolitical developments.

In European data, Tuesday sees the release of the January German Ifo business sentiment index based on a survey of 7,000 companies.

Economists expect the January data to rise to 87.5 from December's 87.1, ending seven consecutive monthly declines and providing more evidence that the country may escape a recession.

"There's a bit of scope for that to go up," said Carnell.

"Given that the news from Germany has all been bad lately, a bit of good news could have quite an impact on the market."

Also on Tuesday, euro zone money supply data, watched by the European Central Bank in deciding interest rates, will be released. It is expected to be unchanged at 7.1 percent.

"Headline numbers may remain unchanged but it will be important to see whether the credit side will continue to deteriorate," said Mary Davis, global economist at Credit Suisse First Boston in London.

The year-on-year Italian cities' consumer price index due on Tuesday is expected to fall to 2.7 percent from 2.8 the previous year but analysts said this week's German CPI figures had taken the shine off the Italian equivalent.

Euro zone business and consumer sentiment data are due on Friday.

A rush of data from Japan this week is not expected to move markets, but includes December-January consumer prices, December retail sales and industrial production. *Reuters*

TRADERS watch a monitor at the New York Stock Exchange Friday afternoon, Jan. 24. Wall Street slid to its lowest levels in three months Friday, as war anxieties and a brokerage downgrade of American International Group sparked fears of a faltering economy in the coming months. AP

US business says help needed to spur growth

DAVOS, Switzerland—US business leaders were upbeat on Friday about growth prospects for the world's top economy but urged other major countries to help ensure a fragile global recovery continues despite the threat of war in Iraq.

Citing strong US productivity gains that help keep a lid on inflation, they said the US economy had held up well even in the face of major setbacks to confidence after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and political uncertainty worldwide.

"Fundamentally we're in great shape," Charles Holliday, chairman and chief executive of DuPont, told fellow business captains and political leaders at the World Economic Forum in this Swiss ski resort.

"But we do need some help from other people in the world," he added.

John Chambers, President and CEO of Cisco Systems, agreed:

"The economy has been remarkably strong, despite some remarkable setbacks, in large part because of strong productivity growth."

Their apparent optimism was in stark contrast to the more subdued view on the global economic outlook offered by several European business leaders on Thursday and by some prominent economists.

"Uncertainty is weighing on our economy and dynamics and the will of the people to move forward," Bertrand Collomb, chief executive of French construction materials maker Lafarge, told the elite gathering a day earlier.

But US business leaders on Friday, backed by US Commerce Secretary Don Evans, singled out Japan and Germany—the world's second and third-largest economies respectively—for not contributing enough. This has led to a decidedly lopsided picture of global growth.

"It will be a challenge to the United States if we're the only economy growing at 3-3.5 percent. We need the rest of the world to pitch in and help," Evans said.

Growth has been stalled in Japan for over a decade while it battles with bankrupt corporations and bad loans in banks. In Germany, the economy is flirting with recession and the government is under pressure to restructure its highly regulated labor markets and cut social welfare programs to revive growth. *Reuters*

EU anti-piracy bill seen out this week

BRUSSELS—The EU is set to unveil new rules this week aimed at strengthening the fight against fake goods such as pirated music, EU officials said on Friday.

The new European Union rules, expected to be adopted on Thursday, would ask member states to treat piracy as a criminal offence possibly leading to jail, an EU source with knowledge of the dossier told Reuters.

The rules would complement a bill unveiled on Monday that would beef up the powers of EU custom authorities by allowing them to seize a broader range of goods and conduct more extensive searches of travellers' luggage.

"I can confirm the European Commission is due to consider a proposal for a directive on the enforcement of intellectual property rights," European Commissioner Jonathan Todd said.

The music industry said, however, that the measures risked falling short of what was needed to stem a shady business worth billions of euros as they did not cover all infringements made at the expense of copyright holders.

"We believe the EU should send a strong political signal that piracy should be condemned in all circumstances," Frances Moore, regional director for Europe at the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) told Reuters.

The proposal has been eagerly awaited by the industry, which says it faces an increasing flow of illegal copies of CDs, video tapes and DVDs.

According to IFPI data nearly 50 percent of all CDs sold worldwide are illegal copies. Dealing in pirated discs is worth $4.3 billion a year around the world. *Reuters*

AOL Time Warner to try moving on with results

NEW YORK—AOL Time Warner Inc., which has been dogged by weakness at its online unit, is expected to cap a tumultuous year by taking a multi-billion dollar non-cash charge in the fourth quarter as it tries to create a clean slate and focus on its old media businesses.

Last year, the world's largest media company posted the largest ever US quarterly net loss after a $54 billion non-cash charge to write down the value of its purchase of Time Warner. The company also reshuffled its top ranks, putting power in the hands of old media veterans as the America Online unit went from the company's crown jewel to weak link.

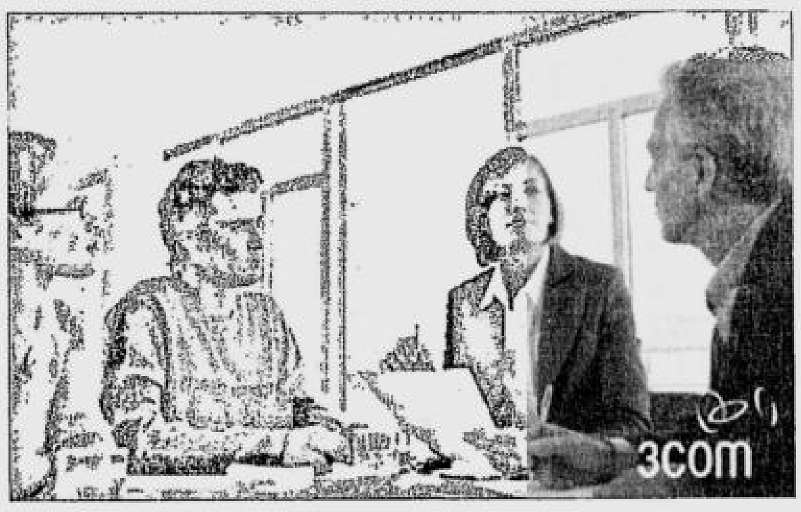
The decision earlier this month by AOL Time Warner Chairman Steve Case, the last remaining key architect of AOL's purchase of Time Warner, to resign was seen as an important step toward closure for investors stung by the 70-percent decline in the company's stock since the deal was completed in January 2001.

Now, the company is trying to put the past behind it.

With the release of fourth-quarter results on Wednesday, executives are expected to focus investors on the future. They will likely discuss plans to cut its $26-billion debt and zero in on the strength at its cable networks and film studio, which is riding high on hits such as the "Lord of the Rings" and "Harry Potter" sequels.

"I think the general theme will be to soothe and calm shareholder concerns. The first step was Steve Case's resignation," said Max Sasso, fund manager at City Asset Management, which owns AOL shares. "It's about time they start looking forward and not heavily burden themselves with the bad timing of the merger."

In a sign of pushing the past behind it, analysts and investors expect AOL Time Warner to take a non-cash charge of $10 billion to $20 billion to reflect the decline in the value of America Online, which is suffering from a sharp slowdown and federal probes into its accounting, and other assets. *Reuters*



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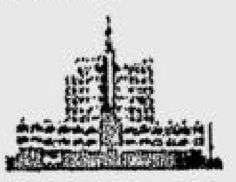

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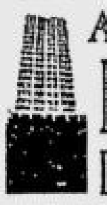

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LOT

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OTHER PROVINCIAL

✢IBA, ZAMBALES 10has 40M 500meters nr beach 09192221766

✢IBA, ZAMBALES 10has 45M nr hway titled 0919-2221766

✢ZAMBALES 18has 10M 100 mango trees 0919-2221766

CAVITE

179m² PARKPLACE IMUS P2500/m² T5237683

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BUSINESS SPACE

700m² Res or Industry W. Capitol 0917-4149898

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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MANILA

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MANDALUYONG

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APARTMENT

MAKATI

Nr. Ayala w/Grge 870-8848 11T

MANILA

Apt 7841746/6682108

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Lady's P3.5 9124428

•P6.5T 2BR T-926-7383

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INTERESTED TO LEASE MIN. AREA OF 1,500 m² fenced property w/or w/o warehouse send offers to M. Ramos Telefax 8730933

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

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BMW'96 320I 680T 1st own AT-WelKept 8152568; 8181805

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'00 HONDA CIVIC VTEC FULL MAINTENANCE 09178151591 MR. PARK

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CARS

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L300 T7411356

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P800/L3 9136710/4333682

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1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 5560140

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

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HOSPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (HIBAC)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

The 'Amang' Rodriguez Medical Center (ARMC) thru the Hospital Bids and Awards Committee (HIBAC) is inviting bids from Accredited Contractors of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category of "A" and registration of **MEDIUM B** for Building and Industrial Plant for the **PROJECT: CONSTRUCTION OF TWO (2) STOREY HOSPITAL BUILDING** at ARMC.

The dates to be followed are:

1.	Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (bring Original Copies of Contractor's License) and Issuance of Eligibility Documents.		January 27 & February 4, 2003
2.	Submission of Duly Accomplished Eligibility Documents		February 10, 2003
3.	Posting of Eligible Contractors		February 26, 2003
4.	Issuance of Bid Tender Documents		February 27 & 29, 2003
5.	Pre-Bid Conference		March 14, 2003
6.	Submission of Bids (deadline)	10:00 AM	March 28, 2003
7.	Opening of Bids	10:30 AM	March 28, 2003

All of the above activities shall be held at the ARMC Conference Room, Second Floor, Administrative Building.

The complete set of bid tender documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00).

HIBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by HIBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The HIBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that maybe incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost for the project will be announced during the Pre-Bid Conference.

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO P. GREGORIO, MD, FPCS**
Chairman, HIBAC

(PDI - Jan. 27 & Feb. 4, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE POSTAL CORPORATION

PHILPOST
OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL

PREQUALIFICATION BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE FOR PHILPOST BOND FLOTATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Postal Corporation invites interested and qualified Financial Advisor/Issue Manager and Lead Underwriter for the proposed contracting of services for its Bond Offering for improvement of its operational capability and financial viability.

The pertinent Terms of Reference (TOR) which forms part of this notice can be secured from the Secretariat, Legal Service Office, PPC Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila from **January 14 up to February 3, 2003.**

Pre-Bid Conference will be on February 4, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the Business Operations Center, 3F Central Office Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

Submission of bid proposals will be until the close of office hours on **February 10, 2003.**

Opening of Bids will be on **February 11, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the Business Operations Center, 3F Central Office Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

Philpost reserves the right to re-bid or reject any or all bids, waive any formalities or infirmities and accept the bid considered most advantageous to the corporation.

Participation in the bidding is not a guaranty for an award of the contract.

(Sgd.) **ASUNCION P. LORETO**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Jan. 15, 20 & 27, 2003)

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OFC STAFF 09197907035 MS JK

OFC STAFF Coll Grad/Level w/ or w/o exp 4370454 SHIE

OFCSTAF EYAH 09207440296

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

NOTICE OF LOSS

Alabang Country Club Inc. Stock Certificate No. A-2916 issued to Darosa Hodlings Inc. If no contest in 1 year, new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-Jan. 13, 20 & 27, 2003)

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Doña Leoncia Cuyegkeng Vda. de Lim

September 12, 1906 – January 25, 2003

Beloved Wife of **Don Benito E. Lim** (†)

Devoted Mother of
Eduardo (†) and **Luisa, Lourdes** and **Johnny, Antonio** (†),
Reginaldo and **Nanette, Carmen, Federico** and **Christine,**
Rosario, Florencia and **Dennis**

Loving Grandmother and Great-Grandmother of
Moony, John, James & Arianne
Eloisa and **Butch, Annelle & Butchito Campos**
Enrique (†) and **Annette, Elise, Elaine & Erica**
Elvira and **Pipo, Maxie, Billie, Benny & Sugar Liboro**
Emmanuel and **Leila, Annie, Andrea & Paulina**
Ernesto and **Tet, Joanna, Miggy & Jaime**
Jocelyn and **Pieter, Alexandra & Mikael Helqvist**
Wendy and **Oskie, Jessica Nieva**
Jackie and **Nolet, Michelle, Camille, Nicky & Kathleen Ferreol**
Pinky and **Nilo, Kimi, Nico, Miggy & Gabby Escalona**
Ginnie and **Jaime, Alex, Carmela & Cristina Fernandez**
Gino, Raymond, Richard
Winnie, Juancho & Raffy
Rhea, DJ & Mikey
BR and **Michelle, Bryan, Martynne & Brent**
Jonathan Mendoza

Her remains lie in state at the
Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio
Forbes Park, Makati

She will be laid to rest immediately after the 1:30 p.m. mass
On Tuesday, January 28, 2003
At the Family Mausoleum
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina

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MESSAGE OF THANKS

The Family of our beloved husband and dad, the late

DR. EMETERIO CALAYAN, JR.

UST MEDICINE CLASS '53
of Lucena City, Quezon
May 2, 1929 – December 19, 2002

... wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways condoled and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

Today, on his 40th day of returning to our Lord in heaven, Masses will be held in the following churches:

HOLY CROSS CHURCH *Dover, Delaware, USA*	6:00 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH *Forbes Park, Makati*	6:30 a.m.
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI PARISH *Magallanes Village, Makati*	12:15 p.m.
ST. FERDINAND CATHEDRAL *Lucena City*	6:00 a.m.
ST. PAUL THE HERMIT *San Pablo City*	6:45 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
HOLY ROSARY CHURCH *Lucena City*	6:30 a.m.
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH *Mandaluyong City*	7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
MEDICAL CENTER MLA. CHAPEL *Manila*	12:00 nn

> *Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him.*
>
> *I Corinthians 2:9*

PLDT

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Accreditation of company who offers the following services:

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- Provision of the Sewing Services of Office Uniform
- Provision of both Supply of Fabrics and Sewing of Office Uniform (*Hecho-Derecho*)

The Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT Co.) is inviting qualified companies to participate in the accreditation process for the Company's Panels of Office Uniform Fabric Suppliers and Office Uniform Sewers or *Hecho-Derecho* Service Providers. Companies who will pass the pre-qualification/accreditation requirements shall be invited to participate in the bidding process that shall be conducted within this year.

Minimum basic requirements shall be:

- Three (3) years experience in the provision of fabrics or sewing services or hecho-derecho services for office uniforms
- Registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as a corporation
- At least Php 3.0 Million paid-up capital

The accreditation forms are available at the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, 2/F MOC Bldg., Reliance corner Sheridan Sts. Mandaluyong City. Interested parties may secure the necessary accreditation requirements from 27-31 January 2003 during regular business hours.

The accomplished accreditation requirements including the required supporting documents shall be submitted in a sealed envelope not later than 2:00 PM of February 7, 2003 addressed to:

Ma. Luisa V. Alvendia
Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company
Purchasing Center
Reliance Corner Sheridan St.
Mandaluyong City

For any inquiries, please call Ms. Rowena Almario at telephone number (632) 633-6856 and e-mail address rsalmario@pldt.com.ph or purchasing-epldt@pldt.com.ph.

(Accredited suppliers/contractors and applicants currently undergoing accreditation process need not apply)

Republic of the Philippines
BICOL UNIVERSITY
Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bicol University thru its Bids and Awards Committee – Equipment and Services (BAC-ES) invites interested bidders to participate in the bidding for security services.

Interested bidders may secure registration documents from the Legal Office, Bicol University Legazpi City from **January 27 to February 5, 2003**. Deadline for submission of registration documents is on **February 7, 2003**.

Pre-Bid Conference will be on **February 14, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room of Bicol University Computer Science Institute (BUCSI), Multipurpose Building, Main Campus, Legazpi City at which place and time, bid documents will be released at cost.

Public Bidding will be on **February 28, 2003**, 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, BUCSI Multipurpose Building, Main Campus, Legazpi City. Opening of bids will immediately follow at 2:01 p.m.

The BAC-ES reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any formality therein and recommend an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the agency. The BAC-ES assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further information, please contact the Legal Office, Bicol University, Main Campus, Legazpi City at telephone numbers (052) 481-5071 and (052) 821-7958.

(Sgd.) **EMILIANO A. ABERIN**
President

(PDI - Jan. 27 & Feb. 2, 2003)

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DBP Development Bank of the Philippi:.es

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on February 12, 2003, 2:00 p.m., at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on **CASH BASIS**:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
BULACAN			
AMD-MR-12	Along Camia St., Manzano Subd. Brgy. Ibayo, Marilao	294 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-351786 M)	P 940,800.00
DAVAO			
AMD-ED-5f	Lot 22 Blk 5, Kristina Homes Subd. Lizada, Toril, Davao City	116 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-347751) with building and improvements	P 179,980.00
LUCENA			
LRD-157	Merchan St., Lucena City	805 m² commercial lot (TCT No. T-30703) with building and improvements	P 21,868,900.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as is, where is" basis)			
AMD-JB-13	Dalaruan, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	M/V "Super 85", an 85-footer motorized passenger ferry vessel, twin engine, catamaran type, capable of carrying 185 persons, with machinery and navigational equipment.	P 16,983,000.00
AMD-ED-13a to 13m	Along National Road (near Sta. Anastacia Elem. School), San Rafael, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	13 units various machinery and equipment for fruit juice processing	P 1,520.00 to 98,560.00
AMD-MR-15	Brgy. Mationa, Tayabas, Quezon	One (1) assembly of cone-type ricemilling machine, locally fabricated, 20-25 cavans per hour capacity, with accessories.	P 45,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the Acquired Assets-AMD, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours.
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144/2218/3404 for Code starting with AMD; and
892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for LRD-157.

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His wife Teresa (†); children Monchet & Mary-lou, Peppy, Nenates & Nandy Pineda, Ito & Joe (†) Samson, Tony & Cindy, and Carmen & Chito Afable; grandchildren Gaget & Jan Bengzon, Mon & Mari-An, Teng & Becky, Dedette & Jojo Habana; Trina & Tonchi Tinio, Caren & Cobie Cruz, Chook; Tricie & Peter Estanislao, Kix, Tintin; Alexei & Tata, Andoni & Eloi; Chipper (†), Cybelle, Martin (†) & Mik; great grandchildren, nephews, nieces and other relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the mortuary of Sta. Maria della Strada Church, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, on Wednesday, January 29, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Sta. Maria della Strada.

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and
whoever
loses
his life
for my
sake
will
find it.
Matthew 10:39

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Now peacefully rests in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord on January 23rd 2003 at the age of 75.

Her loving family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

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Rosita Betonio Valencia

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 25, 2003
at the age of 68

Her bereaved family: husband Col. Oscar B. Valencia, Sr.; children Bubot, Oscar Jr., Ruby, Roscar, Ruth, Oliver, Orland; grandchildren, sister, brothers and in-laws request fervent prayers and special petitions for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc., Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep, for You alone, Lord make me secure" *Psalm 16:5*

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Unknown worm hits Internet, bogs down services worldwide

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

AN UNKNOWN worm targeting computer systems running Microsoft's SQL server caused a slowdown on the Internet Saturday, INQ7.net has learned.

Although not destructive, the worm caused Internet servers running Microsoft SQL to bog down. The worm hostages the machine and sends out massive data to random addresses, thereby eating up bandwidth.

"It looks like there's a worm affecting MS SQL server which is ping flooding (sending huge amounts of data) to (Internet) addresses at some random sequence," said security expert Michael Bacarella of bugtraq@securityfocus.com in an e-mail forwarded to INQ7.net

Bacarella advised all administrators with access to network routers to block "port 1434," the apparent entry point of the unknown worm.

In an e-mail to INQ7.net, local Internet service provider Bitstop said that there was a "noticeable slowdown" in its network which started around 1:20 p.m. Saturday.

"The problem was traced to one machine that would cause the entire network to go down when it is connected to the local area network," Bitstop president Wilson Chua told INQ7.net. "All other ports on the network had the same spike. A broadcast storm was happening across all the ports. Except one port in a Windows 2000 machine, which, instead of being hit with the broadcasts, was apparently sending out data."

Chua initially suspected that the network problem was caused by a denial-of-service (DOS) attack. But they eventually found out that it was a worm that hit them.

Apparently, the worm is taking advantage of a security hole in the locator service of the Microsoft SQL server.

According to Microsoft's website, the Microsoft Locator service is a service that maps logical names to network-specific names. It ships with Windows NT 4.0, Windows 2000 and Windows XP.

In a Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) advisory released on Jan. 23, 2003, the security problem called "Buffer Overflow on Microsoft Windows Locator service" was explained.

The CERT advisory pointed out that systems affected include Microsoft Windows NT. 4, NT 4.0 terminal server edition, Windows 2000 and Windows XP.

The Windows security vulnerability could compromise a vulnerable system by sending an "overly large request" or a large amount of data to the Windows Locator service, the advisory added.

Bitstop's Chua said that all its systems were free of any viruses and were spared of the attack, except for the Windows 2000 server that was hit.

Chua suspected that other local Internet service providers might have experienced similar problems.

"We suspect that they also have Windows machines that have somehow been compromised or controlled into doing this behavior," Chua added.

Chua said that they still have no idea regarding the destination of flood of packets that were being sent out.

Meanwhile, INQ7.net sources from the hacker underground revealed that there was indeed a massive attack on SQL servers Saturday in the United States.

EO to allot 1-2% of RP budget to e-government spending

By Abigail L. Ho

A MALACAÑANG order earmarks the allocation of one to two percent of the national budget for e-government spending, increasing capital outlay for IT in all government agencies.

Virgilio Peña, undersecretary for information and communications technology and concurrent executive director of the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council, said that the ITECC had drafted an executive order that was ready for President Macapagal-Arroyo's signature.

He explained, however, that the Malacañang order would only take effect after both houses of Congress have approved the proposed 2003 national budget of P804 billion.

In the proposed budget, only 0.8 percent of the total has been allotted for IT capital outlay spread across all government agencies. The yet-to-be-issued Malacañang order would provide just that, so that all government offices could be networked.

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Microsoft division axes 62 Filipinos

From page B16

Kevin Hou, managing director of Microsoft Philippines, said the downsizing is not related to any form of belt-tightening at Microsoft.

"Microsoft has never laid off any people," he said. "This is all about efficiency. If you look at our last financial quarter, we've been doing well. But after the merger (with Great Plains and Navision), the structure was not efficient organization-wise."

"We're not downsizing due to any belt-tightening," Coulombe added. "The business solutions group has been meeting its targets and will continue to be a key growth area for Microsoft in the small and medium space which has traditionally been our area. This is a business strategy decision from a software development perspective."

"(The downsizing) is an unfortunate situation, but it doesn't reflect Microsoft's business direction as a whole," Coulombe said. "This does not reflect the situation of the IT industry as a whole nor is it reflective of cost-savings on Microsoft's side."

Microsoft's Business Solutions Group in the Philippines has over 400 customers, which, Coulombe said, will still be supported primarily by an outsourced service also based in the Philippines. Previously, Microsoft Philippines and the Business Solutions Group had separate offices, but come June the four people to be retained in the country will be housed under one roof at Microsoft Philippines.

DBM says losing bidders' complaints 'self-serving'

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

GOVERNMENT had no reason, under the law, to consider "proposals" of companies that participated in and lost a recent bidding for a P250-million information technology project of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), a DBM official said in a statement.

Assistant Budget Secretary Eduardo Opida said the issues raised by two companies who were part of the losing bidders for the DBM project were "clearly self-serving."

Charlie Villaseñor, president and chief executive of TransProcure Corp., and Bayantrade president Carol Carreon have both questioned the bidding of the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS), and the subsequent identification of a winner by Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, albeit unofficialy.

Villaseñor, who is a consultant on eProcurement for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development International Trade Center, complained about the DBM's decision to disqualify a consortium, in which TransProcure was a member, due to "some minor technical grounds."

Transprocure was part of the Questronix Corp.-led consortium that was disqualified for failing to submit required documents in time for the bidding.

Villaseñor pointed out in a letter sent to Secretary Boncodin on Nov. 4, 2002 that the disqualification brought down the qualified bidders to only two, "which obviously is a limited opportunity to fully consider what is available on the eProcurement market."

Villaseñor noted that the "selection process should identify best-of-breed solutions that can address the unique requirements of the Philippine government." He also argued that the bidding should have adequate representation of best-of-breed solutions currently available in the market, and appealed to the agency to review and reconsider the technical disqualification of the bid submitted by the consortium.

"How could they make a decision if they have not really invited all solution providers to make presentations? The selection of winning bidders was based on technical documentation," explained Villaseñor.

He added: "If you're going to look at the whole process, any layman would understand that it was not fair and transparent. They based decisions on technical documents, and they have not allowed the providers to make presentations."

The DBM vehemently disagreed.

Opida insisted that the DBM had all the right to disqualify any company from the bidding process once they fail to comply with bidding requirements.

"The G-EPS strictly follows the rules stipulated in Executive Order 40, series 2001. Thus, to avoid opportunities for abuse of discretion, these rules provide for a non-discretionary pass-fail criteria in the bidding process, and it allows the government to review only the proposals of duly qualified proponents. Consequently, if a proponent fails to follow the basic bidding rules and processes that includes the timely submission of proposals, no matter how technical this may seem, the bidding committee concerned would have no choice but to disqualify it (the bidder)," Opida said.

"It would be interesting to note that those who are complaining

DBM/B16

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Editor **Leo Magno**

Controlling size of a new window in Dreamweaver

By Jerry Liao

DREAMWEAVER comes with a feature that opens a link in a new Window, and most of the time, the new browser window opens the same size as the original browser window containing your site. You can actually set the new browser window to a smaller size. Here's how:

(1) Open Macromedia Dreamweaver.

(2) Choose Windows / Behaviors. The Behaviors palette will be displayed.

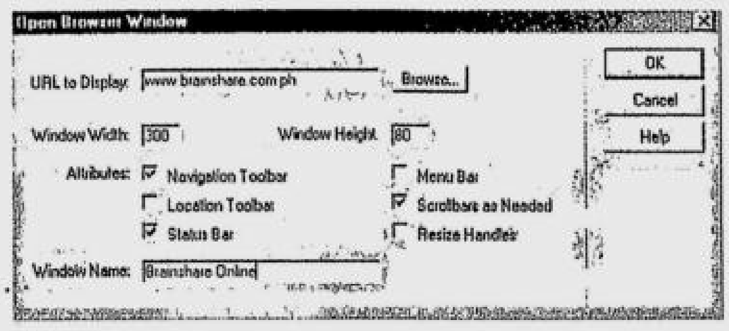
(3) Select the link in your document.

(4) In your Behaviors palette, select Open Browser Window from the Behavior menu.

(5) Enter the URL of the link, set the desired width and height of the new window, set attributes and type the name for the new window.

6. Click OK.

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph. We invite our readers to join The Powertips Group. Register online at www.brainshare.com.ph/register.htm.



URL to Display: www.brainshare.com.ph
Window Width: 300
Window Height: 80
Attributes:
☑ Navigation Toolbar
☐ Location Toolbar
☑ Status Bar
☐ Menu Bar
☑ Scrollbars as Needed
☐ Resize Handles
Window Name: Brainshare Online

Microsoft division axes 62 Filipinos

By Leo Magno

SIXTY-TWO people from the Microsoft Business Solutions division in the Philippines will be retrenched in a restructuring move aimed at consolidating the software giant's global operations of the division.

Dave Coulombe, general manager of the enterprise resource management group of Microsoft in North Dakota, announced the retrenchment in the Philippines on Wednesday, simultaneous with the global announcement that will impact 300 people worldwide. Out of the 48,000 employees Microsoft has worldwide, 3,800 people are under the Business Solutions group.

"This is not a pleasant situation for our people in Manila, but we have to look at where we're going and we've made a decision to centralize operations (of the Business Solutions group)," said Coulombe. "We're downsizing the division's 13 sites worldwide to three—in Copenhagen, Fargo in North Dakota and in Redmond."

Microsoft's Business Solutions group was formed as a result of the software company's acquisition of Great Plains Software of North Dakota and the European enterprise software firm called Navision. As a result, Great Plains Software in the Philippines was folded into the Microsoft Business Solutions Group.

The group has a total of 80 employees in the Philippines. Sixty-two were deemed redundant and were informed of their retrenchment Wednesday. Fourteen developers will be transferred to the Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Washington and four will be retained at the sales division of the Microsoft business solutions group. Ten out of the 13 business solutions sites will be closed by June. These include offices in Manila, London, South Dakota, Manchester, Costa Mesa, Denver, Minneapolis and Atlanta.

"We gave them the standard 30 days notice and separation pay in accordance with Philippine laws," said Coulombe. "We also hired a placement agency to help the 62 people look for work either internally at other Microsoft offices worldwide or other companies here in the Philippines."

Last week, Joey Gurango, managing director of Microsoft Business Solutions, announced his early retirement at the age of 45. Gurango became head of Great Plains Philippines after Great Plains Software of North Dakota decided to acquire his software company called Match Data Systems in 1999. In 2001, Microsoft Corp. bought Great Plains, and was subsequently named as Microsoft Great Plains Business Solutions division.

However, Coulombe said Gurango's retirement had nothing to do with the global downsizing of the business solutions group.

"Joey has been thinking about leaving Microsoft for a while, and now he's looking at starting his own company and developing products around the .Net initiative," Coulombe said.

MICROSOFT/B15

DBM says . . .

From page B15

about the G-EPS bidding are those who failed to comply with these basic rules, and for the government to consider their proposals despite such failure would be contrary to the law we are committed to uphold and respect," Opida stressed.

The DBM said that the agency wrote Questronix Corp. in October 2002, in answer to the company's request for reconsideration, in light of the six-minute delay beyond the published deadline.

"Bid rules cannot be waived. They have to be followed consistently, once they are formally made part of the bidding process. To waive one of them now would be prejudicial to those who religiously followed them," and would also violate the law, Opida said.

The DBM also disagreed with allegations that the bidding process did not have an adequate representation of solution providers.

"Consistent with the intention of the government to increase competition for the G-EPS project, a second bidding was conducted to allow more proponents to participate, and to give them more opportunity to improve their proposals. Of course, notwithstanding the increased participation, only one will be adjudged as (the) winning bid," Opida said.

The DBM's statement, however, was silent on other questions raised by Bayantrade's Carreon.

Carreon alleged that ITBF Philippines failed to disclose "substantive information in the submission of its joint venture structure," in which the company was using a US-based infrastructure and a proprietary technology "that goes against current technology trends and best practice."

Carreon said that ITBF Philippines uses "neither of the two most widely used e-marketplace solutions." The executive was referring to solutions provided by global companies Ariba and CommerceOne.

The DBM also did not mention if ITBF Philippines had, indeed, won the project.

ITBF Philippines was mum on accusations raised against them.

The G-EPS project is a web-based portal where all government procurement would eventually be conducted. At this time, the DBM is pilot-testing a system where agencies could place bid requests for commonly purchased goods such as office equipment.

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DOLPHY

CAMACHO

Now showing: Show biz vs VAT

By Clarissa S. Batino

WHEN the biggest taxpayer in the movie and entertainment industry, known to rake in so much money, is not even in the Bureau of Internal Revenue's list of top 1,000 individual taxpayers, you know that something is definitely amiss.

Comedy King Dolphy paid less than P2.5 million in taxes in 2001 and yet emerged as the biggest taxpayer among entertainers for that year.

In comparison, those in the list of the top 1,000 individual taxpayers paid much more in taxes.

An actor of Dolphy's caliber and stature earns about P5 million per picture and millions more a month for regular shows—amounts that would be enough to uplift the lives of a few thousand Filipinos.

In 2001, individuals paid P80.24 billion in total taxes. These include salaried workers, business executives, and professionals.

Of the amount, wage earners paid P66.3 billion. Wage earners or the fixed income earners have no opportunity to cheat the government since their tax obligations are automatically withheld by their employers via the withholding tax.

Professionals, on the other hand, pay taxes based on how much income they declare. And since most of them, like the doctors, do not issue receipts, there is no way to gauge how much they are earning.

It is common that a fixed income earner who earns P500,000 a year, pays over 30 percent of his salary in taxes. On the other hand, an *artista* who earns P500,000 a month, pays only 20 percent in taxes (provided he declares his income correctly).

Disturbing numbers

Of the 2.6 million individual taxpayers in 2001, only 525,760 were classified as professionals and self-employed while the rest were compensation earners.

In 2000, only 28,915 were classified as professionals while the rest were self-employed.

The numbers are disturbing yet many professionals who fancy themselves persecuted by the government because of its collection effort, those to overlook undeniable statistics.

Professionals or those who earned purely on talent and consultation fees like entertainers, doctors, lawyers, accountants, athletes, brokers, and others remitted only P620 million to the government in 2001.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho says the earlier set of data crediting professionals with tax payments of P15 billion was erroneous. He notes the actual number was much, much smaller.

Entertainers' protest

Entertainers claim they are being singled out by the government in its tax effort.

After raising the creditable withholding taxes in 2001 to 20 percent from 10 percent for entertainers and athletes, the government had started to implement the value-added tax system this month that would require taxpayers classified as professionals to pay the 10-percent indirect tax.

Some entertainers still insist that the 20-percent withholding tax was separate and distinct from the income tax when in fact, it was just an advanced collection of the income tax.

Such display of ignorance of the tax system, whether real or feigned, suggests irresponsible tax behavior.

Increasing the withholding tax was designed to protect the government against bad habits of some taxpayers, mostly entertainers who adopt creative accounting and compute their final income tax in such a way that by the end of the tax payment season, it would match the 10 percent withheld by the government.

Level playing field

Camacho says the BIR is studying a plan to level the playing field and also increase the withholding tax for lawyers, accountants and doctors to 20 percent.

"The numbers should bear us through all these criticisms. We culled these numbers from different statistical agencies so they could not accuse the DOF of manipulating them," Camacho says, referring to the data on individual tax payments.

The P620 million was but a fraction of the combined P10.75 billion in taxes paid by professionals, self-employed and mixed-income earners. Some P3.18 billion were collected on capital gains.

According to the Family Income and Expenditure Survey of the National Statistics Office in 1997, compensation earners account for 38 percent of individual incomes but spoke for 83 percent of tax collection.

Business and professionals, on the other hand, took home 62 percent of individual income but account only for 13 percent of the tax collected from individuals.

But despite the telling inequity from these statistics, professionals carry on with the persecution angle, even using the sick, those in need of legal defense, and the show biz fanatics in their warped crusade.

Passing on the cost

In a television show, a doctor dramatizes the situation and asks the government what sick people had done to deserve such an injustice, of having to pay more because of the 10-percent VAT.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno explains that if doctors and lawyers have to pass-on the 10-percent VAT to their clients, they must not bill them the entire amount.

The VAT, due to the nature of its creditability, essentially taxes only the portion of the income where value is added.

Parayno says the VAT is an excellent monitoring tool that would enhance the bureau's capability to track evaders and improve tax administration and collection.

Enhanced image

Last year, for instance, an intensive audit using third party information snared 2,000 tax cheats for the BIR with a combined liability of P6 billion.

Displaying an enhanced policing image, the BIR also launched an amnesty program for those who may have understated their tax payments even before they were caught by the system.

VAT's built-in strength is its potential to encourage the informal or "underground" economy to go above ground as more and more people demand receipts and eventually refuse to transact with illegitimate companies. Camacho admits VAT is not yet perfect but the idea is once the system is improved, the government could reduce other tax rates in favor of the value-added tax.

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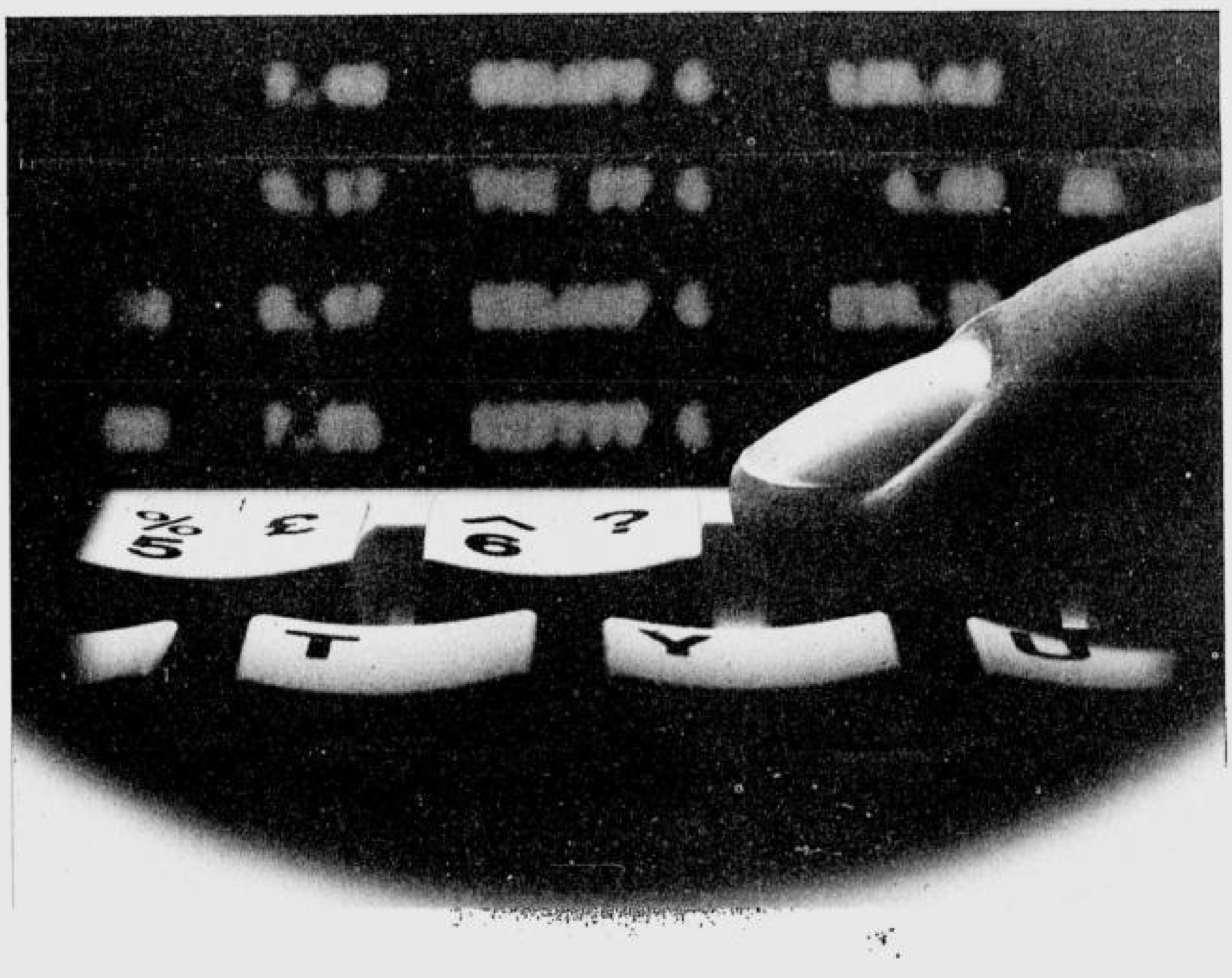

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MAPPING THE FUTURE

Jose Jesus Deduque and Rowena Agnes

COMPANIES today are extremely concerned about the rapidly escalating costs of employee benefits—and there is no question that benefits constitute a hefty and increasing share of total HR costs.

However, progressive companies cannot afford to continue viewing benefits simply as expenses or costs. Instead, benefits must be seen for what they really are: investments in the company's human resources.

Successful management of benefit programs is an ongoing process involving continuous planning, implementation and monitoring.

The key tasks involved can be described as a dynamic Benefit Planning Cycle with three key outcomes:

1. Determining benefit objectives, which should flow logically out of business objectives.
2. Determining the most appropriate and cost effective design to meet benefit objectives.
3. Determining systems and processes required for effective implementation.

Strategic benefits planning and implementation require careful consideration of both "hard" and "soft" factors. Traditionally, management (both at higher levels and at the level of the HR function) have emphasized "hard" factors such as fitting the package into the available budget, keeping it competitive, meeting regulatory requirements, and ensuring that the package makes sense from a taxation perspective.

However, we believe that progressive management must pay equal attention to "soft" factors such as employee perception and welfare—the human dimension of benefits.

In making this important shift in emphasis, the key is to develop effective employee communication strategies. Employees often fail to appreciate investments in them through employee benefit programs. They take benefits for granted. To remedy this situation, consider implementing a "consciousness-raising" educational program.

At the same time, you must be sensitive to the variation in preferences and lifestyles among different employee groups. Different employees value different things. For example, young people may not think much about retirement benefits or life insurance, but may prefer vacation or flex time instead.

This implies that HR management needs to be flexible and responsive to internal customer needs ("listen to your employees"). Internal surveys and focus groups can be invaluable in answering the question: What do employees want and expect in their benefit packages?

Watson Wyatt adopts a three-phased approach to establishing and/or enhancing the benefits programs of our clients:

- Evaluate the current status of benefits programs. Analyze the philosophy and evolution of those programs, obtain employee feedback, and conduct in-depth internal discussions with management.
- Audit existing policies, programs, and systems.
- Identify company goals. Ask (and answer) probing questions such as: Where is the company headed? Where does it want to be in the future? How does the benefits package complement corporate objectives and contribute to long-term business viability?
- Create a baseline: determine the "hard factor" parameters of the benefits package that can not be changed.
- Finalize your approach to the "human side." Be as flexible and responsive to employee needs as possible while still controlling costs and fitting the package into the company's strategic framework.
- Design the benefit program and determine costs.
- Prepare an effective communications strategy.
- Systematically implement the benefits program.
- Establish and maintain a dynamic communications loop between management and employees. Listen for signs of dissatisfaction, identify the unique needs of different groups of employees, and incorporate that information in planning and implementing your benefits packages.

The bottom line is that the traditional approach to benefits based on hard factors alone is no longer sufficient. Today's workers are sophisticated and demanding, and the labor market can be unforgiving. Take the time to understand the unique needs of your own internal customers—the all-important people who make your organization succeed—and the entire organization will benefit as a result of these strategic investments. *(Deduque is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and managing director of Watson Wyatt Philippines, Inc. (WPPI). Agnes is director of WPPI . The MAP Secretariat and the authors may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph)*

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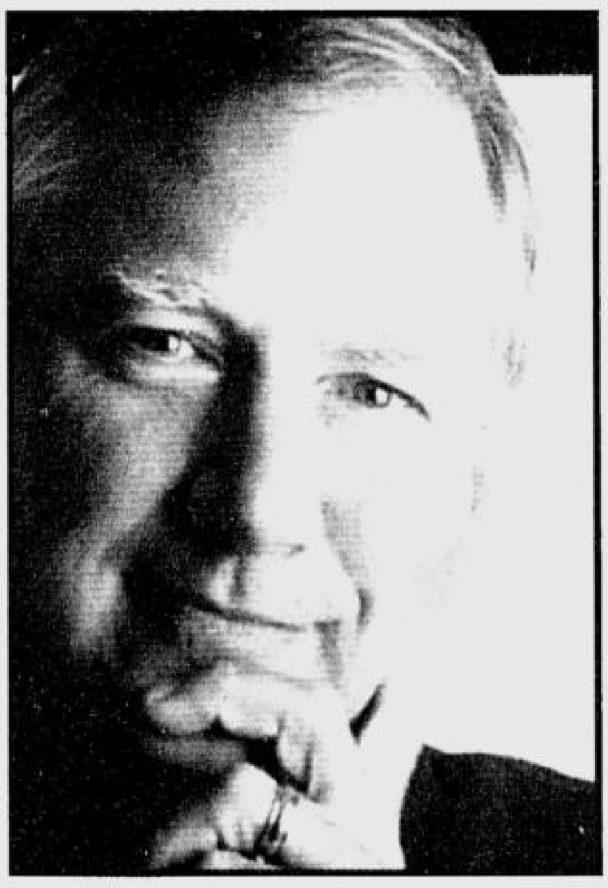

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'How to be' leader

By Henry S. Tenedero
Contributor

A FEW years ago, I had the chance to meet Frances Hesselbein, chair of the Peter Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management.

Our organization, the Asia-Pacific Center for Organizational Transformation or APCOT organized a seminar entitled "The Leader of the Future" in Manila.

She said CEOs face three major challenges: leadership, work force and relationships.

In the turbulent years ahead, the common benchmarks, barometers and milestones will change as radically as the times, but the one constant in the middle of the equation is the leader.

The leader will not be one who has mastered the how-to-do-it skills alone. The leader for today and in the future will be directed on "how to be"—how to develop and enhance quality, character, mind-set, values, principles, and courage.

People as assets

The "how to be" leader is aware that people are the organization's biggest asset and in words, action, attitude, and relationships she or he manifests this philosophy. This thinking moves people towards new mindsets. It makes for fluid management. It liberates the human spirit and endeavor.

The "how to be" leader creates dispersed and diverse leadership which is capable of unleashing the power of shared responsibility. The leader mobilizes the people around the mission of the organization, making it withstand the challenging times ahead.

Through a consistent focus on the mission, the "how to be leader" orchestrates varied interests toward one direction and provide the opportunity to find meaning in their work.

The "how to be" leader is fully aware that listening—with both ears and the heart—to the various stakeholders, will be a critical component in focusing to what the customer values in a world of bustling competition.

Business practices

Everyone in the field will observe closely if business practices of the organizations are consistent with the principles being espoused by the leader. In small or big transactions, the "how to be" leader will demonstrate a belief in the worth and dignity of the men and women that make up the organization.

The "how to be" leader embraces all those concerned in the corporation, the organization, the workforce, the leadership and the community. They make up the totality of leadership.

Whether she or he works in the private, public, or social sector, she or he values the importance of the lives of men and women who make up the organization, puts high premium to the workplace as it nurtures the furthering of the mission for its people and the community.

The "how to be" leader builds a healthy community as dynamically as possible, knowing fully well that a high-performing organization cannot exists if it fails its people in an ailing community.

Opportunities

When an organization cuts down its work force, will it be the disheartened or dispirited leader who leads the pack, or will it be a new leader, inspired and guided by vision, principle and values, who establishes trust and unleashes the energy and creativity of the work force?

Remarkable opportunities lie ahead for those who lead enterprises and this country into new heights of community living, a new kind of community—a community of strong and cohesive families, healthy children, and work that dignifies the human individual.

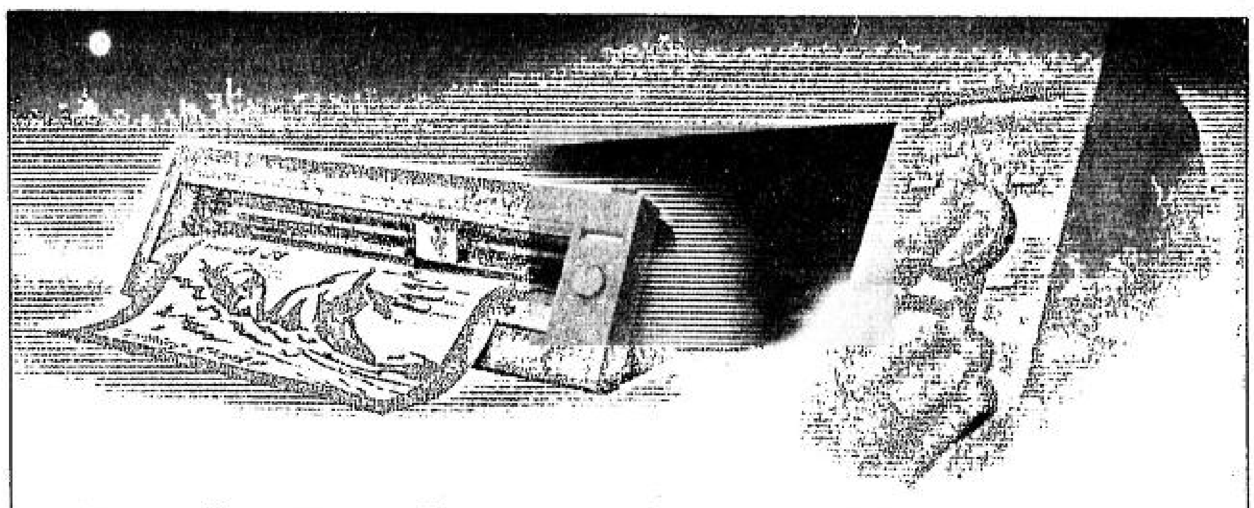
Futurists are not forecasting good times, yet these are the best of times when leaders will forge new relationships armed with new mind-sets and visions.

New breed

This will take a new breed of leaders—"how to be" leaders who dare to envision life and community as a whole, who view work as an excellent opportunity to express everything within with great passion, and who possess the courage to lead the front on the issues, principles, vision, and mission that become the star to live by.

(In celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), the Master in Development Management (MDM) Batch 2003 will hold a two-day national conference on development management on March 3-4, at the AIM Conference Center along Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. With theme "Leadership and Development Management Strategies for Effective Social Change," the conference complements AIM's anniversary theme "Looking Back...Paying Forward.")

Among the topics and speakers are: "Emerging Visions, Strategies and Practices in Development Management" by AIM president Roberto F. De Ocampo; "Social Marketing: The Product Defines the Value" by Prof. Tomas B. Lopez. *(For inquiries, call Des Co at AIM Alumni Relations at 892-4011 loc. 540 or the MDM Office at loc. 134/ 293.)*



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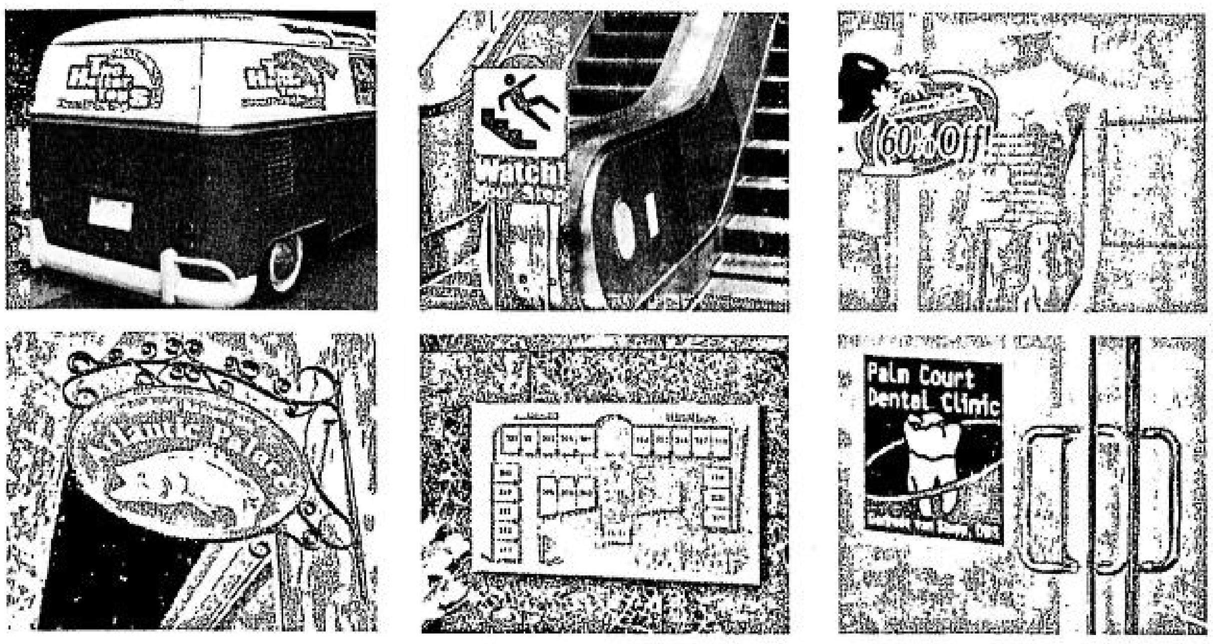

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HONDA

How do I love burgers? Let me look at the process

BLOCKS of beef arrive from Australia

THE FROZEN beef blocks are ground and mixed with eggs and spices

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ON an average day, food-loving Filipinos sink their teeth into as many as 500,000 hamburgers—be it a regular burger, cheeseburger or a Champ.

Hamburgers, combined with the other flagship products Chicken Joy and spaghetti, account for 80 percent of the total sales of fast-food giant Jollibee Food Corp., thus, the company makes sure that each hamburger patty that is sold in its stores is safe for human consumption.

For Jollibee, the journey of the hamburger starts from the sourcing of the blocks of pure beef, mainly from Australia and New Zealand.

Belen O. Rillo, Jollibee vice president for commissary, tells the INQUIRER that the beef blocks are shipped in once or twice a month. Each shipment is good for 15 days' inventory.

Rillo says Jollibee's internal quality control people inspect the shipment and about 2.5 percent of the lot is tested and sampled before the whole shipment is brought to the plant for further processing.

The beef blocks that pass the quality control are then ground and mixed with eggs and spices in two commissaries.

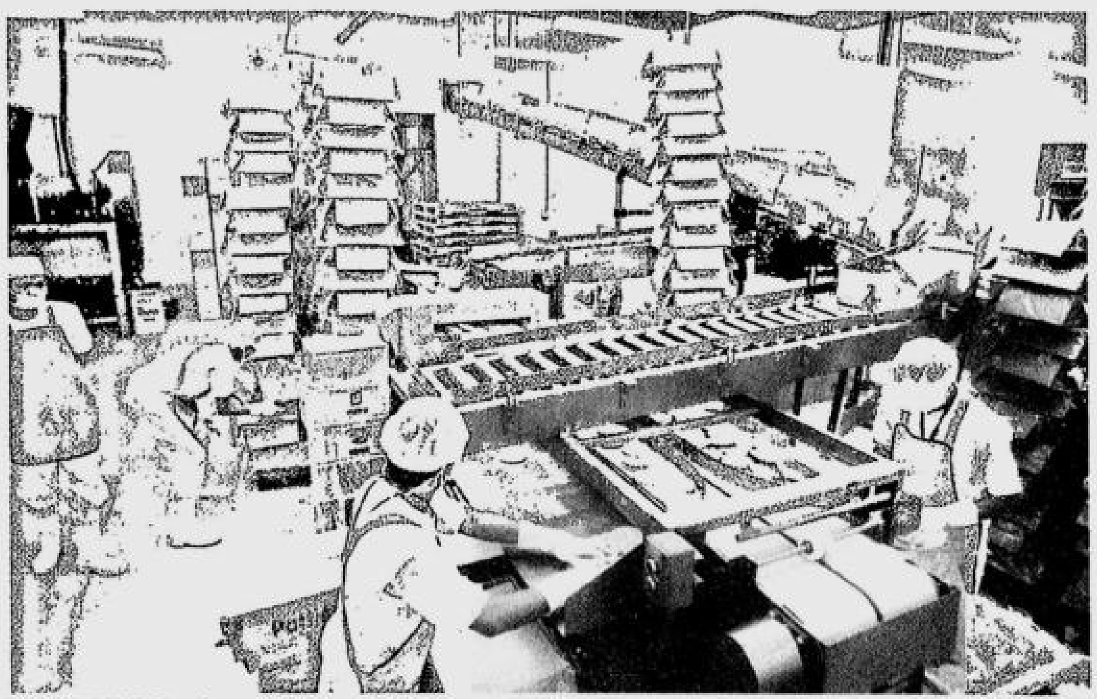
The bigger Pasig commissary services Luzon and produces 300,000 hamburger patties a day while the Cebu commissary serves the Visayas and Mindanao areas and churns out 200,000 patties.

The prepared ground beef is then put through an automatic patty-forming machine that shapes the ground beef into 50-gram hamburger patties. Each patty has a 14-percent fat content.

Rillo says the people manning these machines work under chilled conditions—average temperature of 5 degrees Centigrade—to keep harmful bacteria at bay. She explains that microorganisms cannot live in low temperatures.

Once formed, the patties go through a spiral freezer with temperatures at -10 to -15 degrees Centigrade to prepare the patties for packaging and shipment to the different Jollibee stores across the country.

The patties, however, have to pass through a metal detector before these are placed in boxes and shipped out of the commissaries.



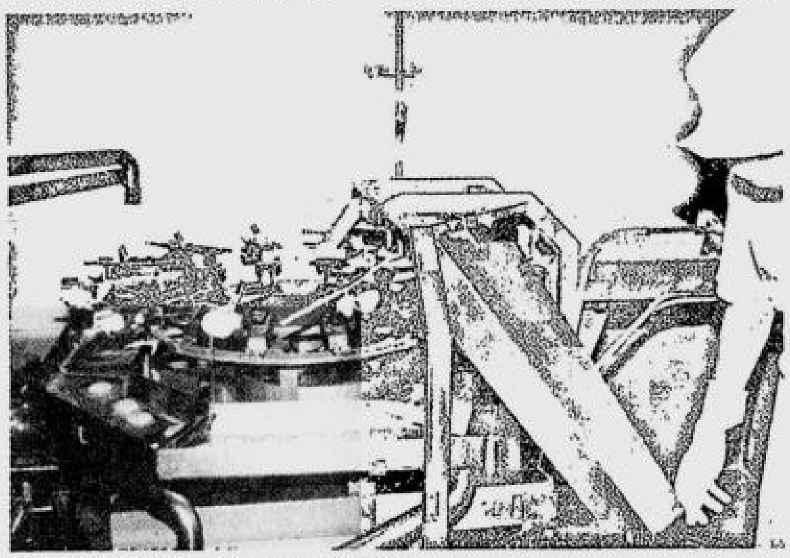
THE FROZEN beef patties are packed in boxes

Rillo says the metal detectors are powerful enough to detect metal objects as small as a piece of staple wire. She says the entire production line stops once metal is detected. The detector is tested daily.

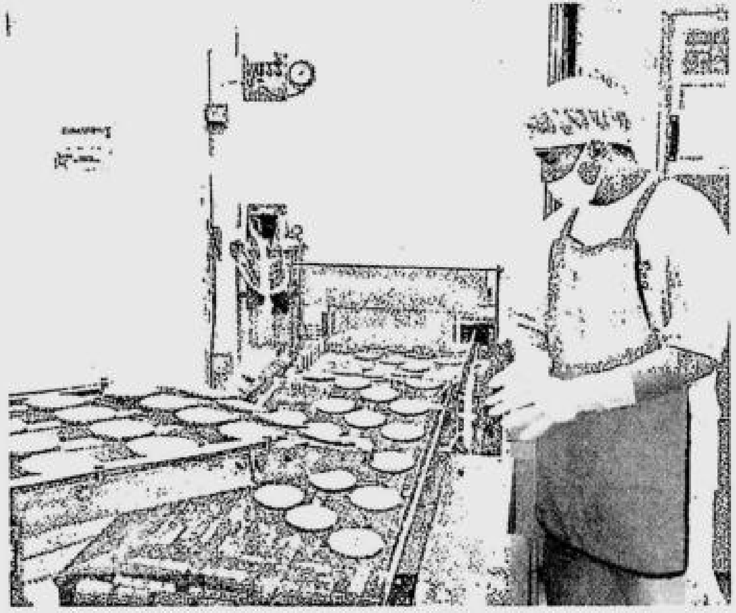
She says the whole process for each batch of hamburgers takes only about 45 minutes. About 50 batches of hamburger patties are produced daily.

More time is spent, she says, in quality control. And for its efforts toward quality control, Jollibee's hamburger patty line was awarded an ISO certification—the first and so far the only one to get the stamp of approval from the Geneva-based certification body.

"We went through the ISO certification process because we wanted to make sure of our quality and the process. Now we are much more confident that one patty in Manila will be the same in Cebu," Rillo says.



A LOOK at the egg-cracking machine



PURE ground beef is formed into patties that weigh about 50 grams each

HAMBURGER patties ready for shipment to Jollibee stores

US bank mergers may be revived

NEW YORK—Tight profit margins and sputtering stock prices have quietly rekindled merger discussions among US banks, meaning another round of industry consolidation could be on tap after several quiet years.

While no one is predicting a return to the sector's M&A heyday of 1998, bankers and analysts said the recovering US economy and the need to show improved profits have bank executives once again fiddling with their spare change.

"It seems logical that after a long slump, M&A activity will start to pick up," said Jennifer Thomson, a bank analyst at Putnam Lovell. "An improving economic outlook should allow some banks to look outward for growth instead of putting out internal fires, and revenue challenges at smaller banks should finally cause some of them to put up their sale sign."

BB&T Corp. delivered the year's first significant volley on Tuesday, agreeing to acquire First Virginia Banks Inc. for $3.1 billion, aiming to significantly expand around Washington, D.C.

That deal starts the industry on the path to top 2002's paltry $17.35 billion worth of US bank mergers, according to data compiled by SNL Financial. The value of US bank merger activity has been on the decline since 1998's record $289 billion worth of deals.

But analysts and bankers say 2003 should bring several more deals, particularly in the Midwest and Southeast, as industry executives seek to take advantage of attractive trading multiples and improve their balance sheets.

"My view right now is very bullish," said Brian Sterling, co-head of investment banking at Sandler O'Neill, which specializes in financial sector deals. "We've got a series of buyers who are scratching their heads trying to find earnings growth in an environment where margins are compressing."

Profit squeeze

Indeed, the main driver behind the conversations, analysts and bankers say, is the most difficult earnings environment the industry has seen in several years.

With interest rates at 40-year lows, banks are earning less on long-term loans like mortgage and car loans. At the same time, banks' bottom lines are being hurt by their decision to delve into everything from investment banking to credit cards over the last decade.

The results in some cases have been devastating. J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., the nation's No. 2 bank by assets, for instance, posted its second straight annual profit decline in 2002 due mainly to bad loans and the global research settlement reached with the New York's attorney general and other officials.

With many institutions generating only modest gains from consumer banking and having already cut spending to the bone, mergers can provide balance sheets with some immediate relief by adding scale, products and some immediate cost savings.

Consolidation

Much of that consolidation will be concentrated in two regions, analysts said: the Southeast, which boasts some of the fastest growing counties in the country, and the Midwest, which has what many believe is an overabundance of banks.

The Southeast already has seen significant activity. Four of the top 12 US banks—Bank of America Corp., Wachovia Corp., SunTrust Banks Inc. and BB&T—are based there and have been inching their way north.

Others, including San Francisco-based Wells Fargo and Co., also have long been rumored to covet the area, raising the profile of the remaining independent banks there.

Reuters

Companies begin to walk the talk

By Doris C. Dumlao

IN THE aftermath of the collapse of US corporate giants Enron and WorldCom, enterprises across the globe are becoming more conscious of their environmental and social commitments, according to the World Economic Forum's survey on chief executive officers (CEOs).

The report, developed by WEF's Global Corporate Citizenship Initiative, profiles practical examples of leadership in corporate citizenship.

Participating in this initiative are 40 top CEOs from 16 countries who endorsed last year a framework for action that business executives can use to develop a strategy for managing their company's impact on society and its relationships with stakeholders.

One of the participants, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, president and CEO of Ayala Corp., agrees that philanthropy must be integral into all Philippine corporations.

"How it is defined is left to the leadership, but it must go beyond the shareholder value goal because, in the process of nation-building, you ultimately add value not only to your own enterprise but to the community as a whole," Zobel de Ayala says.

Ayala Corp. is the only Philippine company that participated in WEF's Global Corporate Citizenship Initiative.

Zobel adds: "Our vision is that all companies should look at themselves as productive members of the community and of society and should therefore always look at how the community can progress or thrive as the company thrives. There is a symbiotic relationship between the two. The company can only thrive if the community around it is growing."

Another signatory, Uwe Dorken who is CEO of DHL, says the WEF report should be used to identify best practices to help formalize a global approach to corporate citizenship.

"Our reputation as a responsible corporate citizen, as well as the competitiveness of our services, will increasingly be the basis upon which our customers decide whether or not to do business with us," Dörken says.

Jim Copeland, CEO of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (DTT), agrees that promoting good corporate governance and ethical conduct is key to building trust and restoring public confidence in the capital markets.

"A dynamic economy is vital to—and benefits from—the health and well being of people everywhere, and trust is the essential foundation for economic growth," says Copeland. "DTT recognizes the importance for businesses to be responsible citizens of the world."

But what exactly is corporate citizenship?

Fundamental to core business

The framework signed by the top CEOs vowed not to focus on specific definitions. Instead, it seeks to recognize such issues not as mere appendages but as things fundamental to core business operations.

ZOBEL DE AYALA

> 'The company can only thrive if the community around it is growing'

This initiative sought to identify some of the key leadership actions that can be adopted by most business leaders to their own circumstances.

The WEF survey details how many of these CEOs and companies, drawn from 18 industries and 16 countries, are "walking the talk" of corporate citizenship on a global basis.

Among the key findings from this in-depth survey of CEOs are:

1) Companies are beginning to look at corporate citizenship from a more strategic perspective.

There is a growing link with their corporate governance structures. Most of the companies surveyed have established governance structures and processes at the board level or senior executive level to monitor the company's wider social, economic and environmental performance.

2) There is now a major emphasis on internal processes. About 90 percent of the CEOs listed the internal communication of values and policies as a key tool in embedding corporate citizenship through the management structure.

Furthermore, although "managing reputation and brand equity" was selected as the most important factor in making the business case for corporate citizenship activities, "attracting, motivating and retaining talented employees" came a strong second, and employees were also selected as the most important stakeholder group for the companies' corporate citizenship activities.

3) Corporate Citizenship is a global phenomenon.

The survey results emphasize that regardless of the culture and ownership structure, a values-based approach to leadership emerges as a common aspiration. Some of the most innovative practices are being undertaken in developing countries.

4) All CEOs surveyed were playing a leading role in different types of global governance initiatives/structures addressing specific challenges of governance and development that cannot be tackled by business or governments acting alone.

Some of these are issue-specific while others are driven by the concerns of a particular industry or geography. Some are business-led coalitions, others multi-stakeholder alliances.

Beyond business as usual

Most of them "go beyond business as usual," representing a fundamentally new approach to problem solving and governance that is likely to grow in importance.

The companies contributing to the report on corporate citizenship do business in 18 sectors, including automobiles, banking, clothing and footwear, conglomerates, construction, electronics, food and beverage, household packaged goods, insurance, logistics and transportation, media and communications, mining and metals, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, professional services, retailing, travel and tourism and utilities. The companies are headquartered in 16 countries, including Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States.

Launched in July 2001, the WEF's Global Corporate Citizenship Initiative seeks to increase business engagement in corporate citizenship. Believing that companies can gain from sharing experience and best practice in corporate citizenship as well as exploring common areas of interest, the initiative is collaborating with companies to advance the agenda of corporate citizenship on a global as well as regional level.

RP best-selling mangoes get a makeover

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILIPPINE mango producers and exporters both agree that the local fruit's yellow-sweet ripeness is no longer enough to sell the fresh agriculture product.

The intense market competition brought by globalization has encouraged local mango exporters and producers to come up with innovative ways to strike a better deal and earn higher margins for their mangoes.

Marketing arm

Because mangoes have been dropped by the Department of Agriculture as one of the six prime commodities that the government will intensely develop in the remaining 17 months of the Macapagal administration, local producers have decided to proceed with their plan of action to prop up the local mango industry.

Philippine mango producers from all over the country has created the Philippine Mango Industry Foundation Inc. to easily coordinate projects specially now that harvests in Luzon are due in the first semester.

"We need to be properly coordinated especially in the area of setting the time for our harvests so that market saturation could be prevented," industry association president Renato A. Florencio says in an interview.

Florencio notes that Luzon farmers have coordinated with mango planters in the South that they should do alternate harvests to prevent sudden drop in wholesale prices.

He cites that producers now have an understanding that planting and harvesting mangoes in Luzon should be within January to June and should not coincide with that of the planters in Visayas and Mindanao.

The national federation of mango growers and/or producers have also opted to create a marketing arm—the Super Philippine Mango Marketing Co. Inc.—to counter problems with unscrupulous middlemen and traders.

The newly established marketing group capitalized by the mango growers and/or producers themselves will directly buy fresh mangoes from members.

Removing the layers

Florencio says this would eliminate at least three to four layers of an unwanted chain of middlemen that are actually not beneficial to producers and could actually jack up retail prices in the market.

"We are now starting to buy mangoes, which we could in turn sell to exporters. However, because we are just starting and our logistics are limited, we would advise them to coordinate with their neighbors if others are also willing to sell their harvests," explains the marketing group's operations manager Nacho S. Legarda.

The mango producers' marketing company will also in time sell fertilizers in bulk.

New markets

Mango exporters agree that they would need the government's assistance in promoting their products to new markets such China, and the Middle East.

"We need to establish a good partnership with the government to be able to promote our products extensively," says Hi-Las Marketing Corp. president Roberto C. Amores said in an interview.

He says so far the Agriculture Department's Agribusiness and Marketing Services office have provided them with the marketing assistance in reaching the US and Australian markets last year

Amores shares that they have recently coordinated with the Philippine attache' to the Middle East for a possible trade arrangement with Dubai, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

"This February we hope to participate in the Gulf Food Show to showcase the fresh Philippine mangoes," says Amores.

Exports to US, Australia

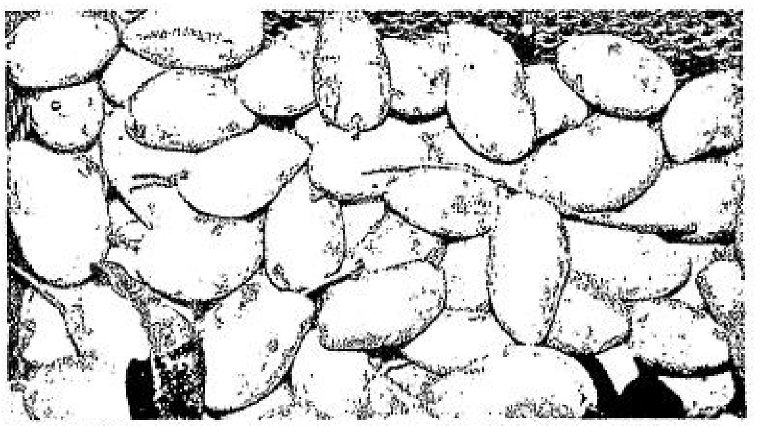
The Philippines exported mangoes for the first time to the United States and Australia last year, though at a limited period of time.

This year fresh mango exporters that include Diamond Star Agro Products Inc., Hi-Las Marketing Corp. and Marsman-Drysdale Food Corp. are seeing higher export volumes this year from the 35,000 metric tons they shipped in year 2002.

With the expected good production this year due to the mild impact of the El Niño phenomenon, these local companies will also have the opportunity to ship the produce within a longer period of 20 weeks as compared to the six weeks they were limited to last year.

"We could export larger volumes to our usual markets such as South Korea and to new markets US and Australia," says Diamond Star Agro Products Inc. senior vice president and director Reynaldo Mangilit.

Mangilit says they are eyeing to double the fresh mangoes they would market, which is some 350,000 kilos to the US and some 30,000 to the Australian market.


PHILIPPINE mangoes to be exported to the US will carry the brand name Philippine super mangoes.

The Philippines has been delivering fresh mangoes to Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Belgium.

In these markets, they are not too strict with fruit quarantine issues such as strict vapor treatment and/or irridiation methods required by the US and Australia and therefore should be maintained.

For the first time, fresh mangoes were shipped to the US and Australia last year. However, Philippine mango exports need to undergo the vapor heat treatment and they only need to be derived from the Visayan island of Guimaras before they were able to reach these markets.

The Philippines is still up on the challenge to overtake Mexico, which currently dominates the $200 million fresh mango market of the US. The country has already cracked the $11 million mango export market of Japan and the Hong Kong's $25 million market.

The Philippines is the eighth largest fresh mango exporter in the world market. Mexico holds the top spot as the largest exporter, though it has been selling its brand of Manila mangoes, seedlings of which it derived from the Philippines during the Manila-Acapulco trade of the 17th century.

Since it could no longer use the brand name Manila mangoes, Philippine mangoes to be exported to the US will carry the brand name Philippine super mangoes.

Fereira is MAP president for 2003

EDWARD L. Fereira, president and CEO of Feycor International Management Group Inc. was recently elected as president of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) for year 2003.

Fereira holds an MBA degree from the University of California-Los Angeles, an MS Marketing Management Development from the Syracuse University-New York, and a BS Microbiology from the University of the Philippines.

He was the first Filipino and first Asian to serve as president of the Syracuse University Graduate School of Sales Management and Marketing.

After his post-graduate studies in Lunar Microbiology, he became the First Filipino to work on the Bio-Satellite project of the Apollo 11 first moon landing of the National Aeronautic Space Administration (Nasa).

FEREIRA

He has also about three decades of extensive experience in business management, marketing and trade promotion. He has served in various capacities in the private sector, Fereira presently serves as chair and president of Pharmafere Inc., president of Chemotrex International Inc. and chair and president of Pharmatex Inc.

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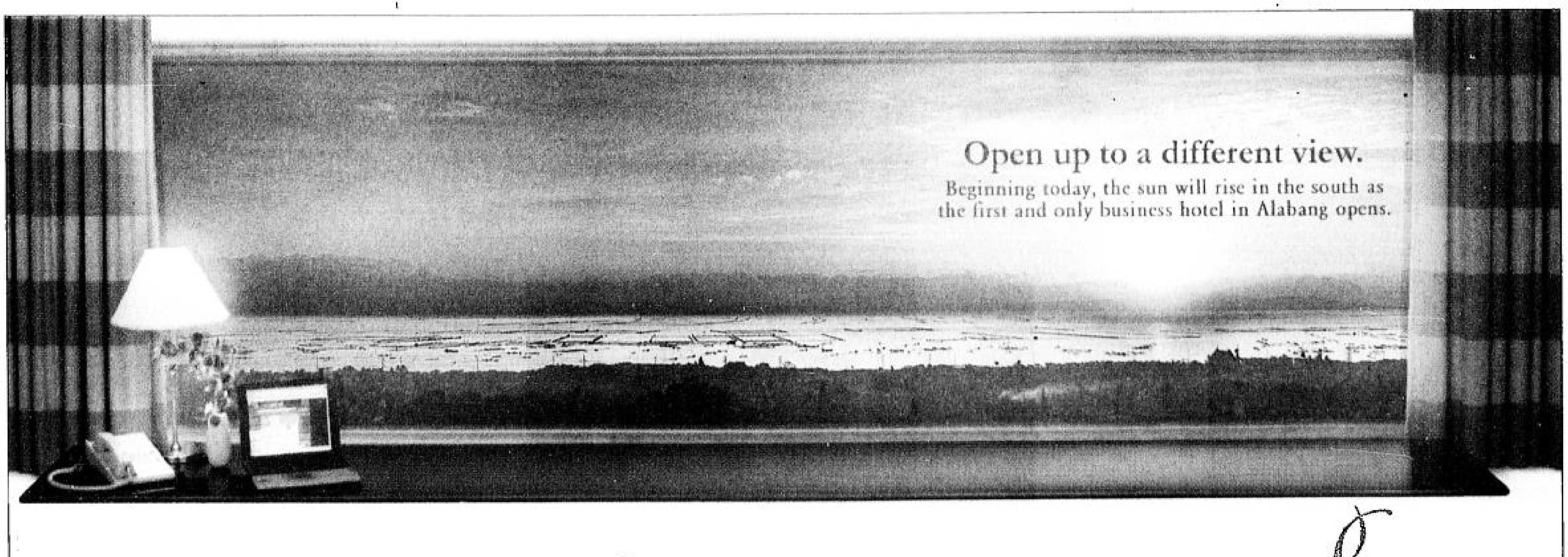
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Aries Espinosa, Editor

Intensity G in Sinulog

GLOBE is committed to asserting its leadership in digital communications and its ringside role as active supporter of Cebu's annual festival, Sinulog, last week was a positive proof of its goal to reach out and connect as many Filipinos as possible. Hosting and sponsoring a series of events, parties, concerts and sales blitzes, the Globe Handyphone "Intensity G" campaign expressed solidarity with the Cebuanos and raised the heat of the city's festive mood.

It all started on Thurday, Jan. 16, with an afternoon motorcade that assembled around The Village Complex in Lahug. Adding to the party air, all the vehicles were festooned with airborne white balloons with the ubiquitous Globe "G" emblazoned on them. The balloons happily bobbed about as the vehicles toured around the major streets and avenues of the city declaring to one and all that indeed, Globe was in town for some serious connecting. The Globe vehicles proceeded to Salinas Drive, turned left and proceeded towards Gorordo Avenue. The motorcade continued around Escario Street, Osmeña Boulevard passing the Fuente oval winding up at the Cebu Business Park before everyone converged back at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel.

Globe Telecom's wireless business head, Ferdz de la Cruz, was in town for the festivities and he was extremely enthusiastic about the campaign. "The timing couldn't have been better. No question about it. The Sinulog was the perfect occasion to launch Intensity G in Cebu. The fever pitch of partying during this province-wide celebration is one for the books. We have had successful campaigns in Cagayan de Oro and Bacolod, where Intensity G signaled Globe's presence and strength, but the impact and intensity of the reception Globe has received in Cebu Sinulog is off the scale. I didn't realize how big the Sinulog had become till, from the helicopter, I saw the entire city literally partying in the streets on such a massive scale. It was awesome. So big. Almost as if all of Cebu had become one living breathing party animal. It made me feel so small."

A wide range of party events and concerts started off the next day with Kombolata Bandorama at Century 21 complex where the local bands including Manila's Tropical Depression played vibrantly to a very eager audience comprised of young students and headbangers. The atmosphere signified a slant in the Sinulog mood – playful and raucous, and this was just the start. Globe's Ailene Averion shared, "Being a service company in the business of connecting lives, Globe's thrust is to continue to forge closer ties with the communities we serve. Celebrating the Sinulog in Cebu is just one of the many ways Globe strives to deepen its relationship with our many subscribers in this city. It's all about staying in touch with what's important to them so that we can give the best service possible."

On the same frenzied night at the Ayala Entertainment Center, fashionistas mingled happily with the club kids as Hap Japs presented exhilarating and pulsating audio sensations concocted by Gap Mobile. The rave crowd throbbed with pure energy until dawn as Don Henrico's hosted a chill out party co-sponsored by Globe Handyphone.

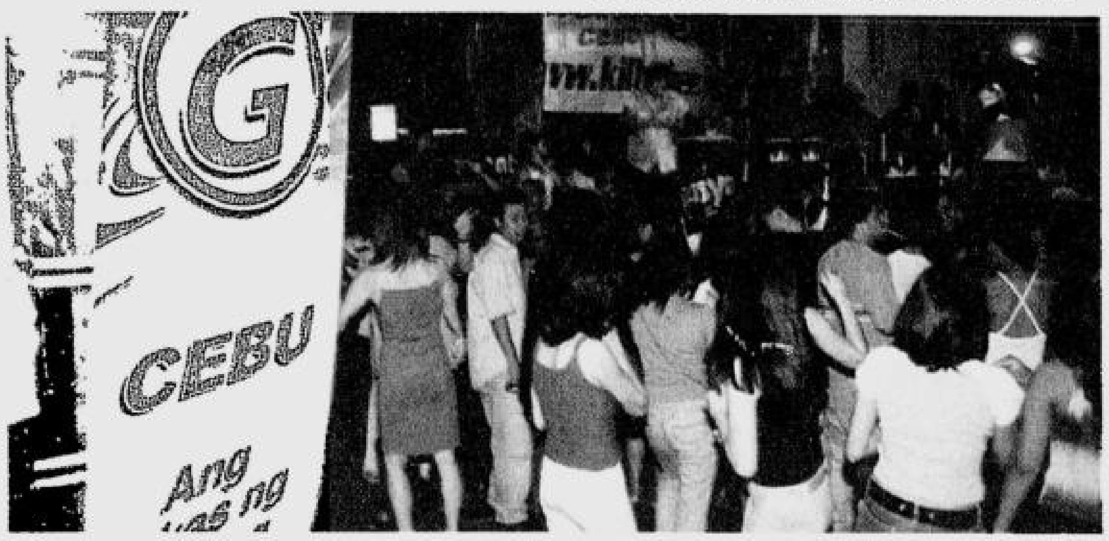
The following Saturday, Jan. 19, Globe's Reggie de Mesa, who flew in for the Sinulog fest, cut the official ribbon with Cebu City councilor Jack Jakosalem at the SM City for the Globe Telecom Mall Sales Blitz. Present were local Globe dealers and assorted Cebu based journalists. It was an interesting mix of personalities and the congeniality of the affair was the right moment to present the Intensity G campaign. "When people are in a festive mood, they normally frequent the malls where the Globe sales displays can be found," Cleo Celeste Santos, head, wireless group territorial sales of Visayas added. Aside from invading Cebu's major malls, Globe also brought the blitz to big university campuses, like Southwestern University and the University of San Carlos. This is one Sinulog celebration which definitely had the Globe Intensity G mark all over it.

Kusog kaayo ang Globe sa Cebu!

Intensity G
CEBU
Globe

INTENSITY G party at The Village

GETTING into the fun at Hap Japs, Ayala Mall Cebu



NIGHT grooving with Globe at H2O

CEBUANOS at the Globe sales blitz in Ayala Center

THE Globe motorcade

Ceremonial ning
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HAN

SENATOR LEGARDA HANDS DONATION

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda hands her donation to Ms Rina Lopez Bautista, president and executive director of Sky Foundations Inc. for the 'Gift of Knowledge' project which will provide the students of Irineo L. Santiago National High School in General Santos City with educational programs of Knowledge Channel through cable television. Also present during the ceremonial turn-over of check is Ms Marlyn Jose, resource mobilization officer of Sky Foundation.

ANDREAN BATCH 1978 OFFICERS

The officers of the steering committee for Andrean Batch 78 Reunion, held their first meeting last Jan. 4, at Dr. Mel Capistrano's place followed by a 2nd soft reunion at Courtyard Patio BF Homes, Paranque. Standing - Ned Elarmo, Ric Lipatan, Dr. Mel Capistrano, Rod Inciong, Boyet Lunas, Robert Dela Pena, Sancho Castro, Arnold Sayaman, Rico Sotto, Dante Garces, Wilhelm Gavino -sitting 2nd row - Mike Fernandez, Mr. D. Allanigue-SAS Principal, Romeo'Rocky' Raqueño, Samuel Lim, Beltran'Nonoy'Sornillo. All graduates of Saint Andew's School Batch 1978 are requested to contact Nonoy at 7767606/ (0917)8179532.

Pro-Friends builds homes and relationships

LANDSCAPED parks, and well-built homes not only make Property Company of Friends (Pro-Friends) developments beautiful, they bring families closer together. Palm Grove Village, a 47,026-sqm subdivision, is the newest development of Pro-Friends in Buhay na Tubig, Imus, Cavite. The 260 single-attached homes offer comfortable living spaces in compact, flexible plans that can grow with your family. There are amenities such as: a town center hall for celebrations, covered courts, a swimming pool, an integrated commercial complex, plus 24-hour security, an overhead water tank, provisions for phones, cable tv, aircon outlets and the internet. It is commuter friendly and accessible to schools, hospitals, public markets, malls and golf courses.

Owning a home in Palm Grove is surprisingly budget-friendly. Pro-Friends even helps smooth the way to easy access financing. Interested parties are invited to the Palm Grove Village Open House from Jan. 25 to Feb 23. Join the "Unlock Your Dreams" promo and win prizes. Call Pro-Friends at Tel. 535-5343 or 535-5170.

Bear Brand Kitefest soars higher in 2003

THE 2003 Bear Brand Kitefest, the country's largest and longest running kite-flying event, will celebrate more than a decade of wholesome, family-oriented fun and excitement with regional competitions to be held in ten key cities. The kick-off competition will take place in Dumaguete City on Feb. 9.

Thousands of kite-flying enthusiasts from all over the country are expected to participate in the much-awaited kite festival, organized annually since 1991 by Nestlé Philipines Inc. maker of Bear Brand Milk.

The event will offer competitions for the various categories of participants: the elementary students, aged 6 to 12, and the high school students, aged 13 to 16, can join in the flat kite division kites (2D or two-faced kites in any shape); college students aged 17 to 21, and adults, aged 22 and above can join in the geometric kites (3D kites with basic shapes, string, combination or train kites), and figure kites (3D kites with themes and realistic shapes) divisions.

The first leg of the 2003 Bear Brand Kitefest in Dumaguete City will feature contestants from regions 6 to 8. Other key cities where Kitefest regional legs will be held are: Baguio City; San Fernando City; Laoag; Puerto Princesa; Manila for residents of regions 1 to 5, CAR and NCR; Cagayan de Oro; and Davao City for resident of region 9 to 13.

Cash prizes, trophies, and Nestlé gift packs awaits winners of the Kitefest in each leg. Special prizes will also be given to the Super Kite or the biggest flying kite and the Saranggola ni Bear Brand or the best flying kite during the free flying period.

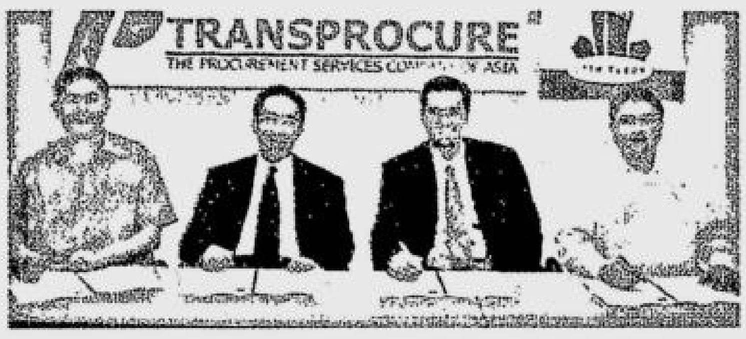
With the promise of a grander Bear Brand Kitefest, Nestlé offers new exciting special prizes for its participants per leg: the Saranggola ng Barangay, open to all barangays of the province or city where each leg will be held, with at least 10 members registered in one geometric shape; the Theme Kite or the best flying kite to represent the province or city; the Favorite of the Crowd or the kite with the most audience impact; and the Family Spotting award, where four families spotted on site will have a chance to experience flying a kite.

Bear Brand promotes kite-making and flying as a summer activity for Filipinos of all ages, as a past time combining creativity and relaxation that the whole family can enjoy together.

Be a part of the 2003 Bear Brand Kitefest, as a participant or spectator. Join and experience the joy of kite flying as never before.

MOST EFFICIENT BANCNET MEMBER

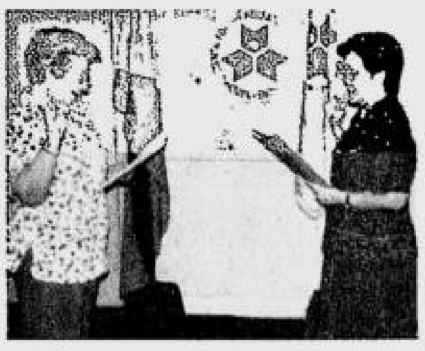
Publicly listed Citystate Savings Bank received the Service Award in a recent gathering of Bancnet and its member banks for having the highest ATM transaction approval for 2002. Receiving the award from left: Angelito M. Villanueva, Bancnet chair; Ricardo R. Chua, Bancnet president; lawyer Rey D. Delfin, Citystate Bank executive vice president; Jeffrey T. Tantiado, Citystate Bank vice president; Jose F. Santos Bancnet treasurer.


TRANSPROCURE
THE PROCUREMENT SERVICES COMPANY OF ASIA

TRANSPROCURE TEAMS WITH 17TH FLOOR

TransProcure Corporation, the procurement services company of Asia, has been selected as the outsource provider by 17th Floor LP, a US-based procurement company. As a result of this strategic alliance, 17th Floor will function as the buying arm in North America for TransProcure's clients in Asia. Shown in photo signing the partnership agreement, from left, TransProcure VP for technology and global delivery services Mark Mojares; TransProcure president and CEO Charlie Villasenor; 17th Floor LP chief operating officer Ershel (Skip) Redd III; and TransProcure VP for business development and global alliance Roland dela Cruz.

BOARD MEMBER FOR DISABLED PERSONS



Social Welfare and Development undersecretary Luwalhati F. Pablo (right) swears in Begona B. Ortigas as member of the governing board of the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons representing the civic group. Mrs Ortigas has been making entrepreneurs out of persons with disabilities by providing them 20 stalls free of rental charges every time there is a 'Baratilyo sa Greenhills' which she herself initiated and opened 10 years ago in Greenhills Shopping Center.

'Pambwelong Galing' featured at GP Kapihan

"PAMBWELONG GALING" was the topic of the GP Kapihan last Jan. 25, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Chowking Pioneer Center near Shaw Boulevard in Pasig.

The Galing Pilipino Kapihan that is held every 4th Saturday of the month, starts the year 2003 with AC Nielsen, the premier market research agency, presenting a business outlook that will help small and medium-scale enterprises and would-be entrepreneurs to cope with the present-day challenging business environment. "Pambwelong Galing" tackled a discussion on what are attractive business propositions in the current marketplace, how to spot marketing trends on the upswing and how to use market research methods as an effective tool for growing or preserving your business potential in these tough times. GP Kapihan offered free admission.

Due to a strong clamor for GPM to offer the Natural Farming System (NFS) seminar, Andry Lim conducted a one-day teaching workshop last Jan. 24, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Chowking Pioneer. Seminar fee was P1,000 only with a 50 percent discount for Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) members. Attendees learned about this low-cost chemical-free agribusiness method. NFS practitioners have experienced growing rice at a cost of only P2,000 per hectare with a 70 percent conversion rate. Previous seminar attendees have attested that hog raising can be odor-free, low-cost and with an ROI of more than 50 percent, using the NFS method.

For more information regarding any of the aforementioned activities, please call the GPM office at 843-7206 or telefax 843-7207, or text 0917-8354829. Look for Mike Pangilinan or Rhona de Leon.

Small . . .

From page C8

Guarding the procurement process attacked the very heart of the corruption problem. Even better, activist groups like his had a paper trail to follow.

Procurement Watch would engage government agencies in monitoring the biddings.

They were well trained in these technical matters and were guided by a checklist.

Procurement Watch also helped fight corruption via research, advocacy, and forging partnerships with other anti-graft groups.

Initiatives

Their signal achievement was taking an active part in drafting the Procurement Bill, which they lobbied through both houses of Congress. It was signed into law by President Macapagal-Arroyo last Jan. 10.

The Government Procurement Act, Republic Act No. 9814, would bind the procurement process for the national government, local governments, and even state-owned and controlled corporations. It covered infrastructure, the hiring of consultants, and the purchase of government supplies.

For his part, House sponsor Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. added that it would "dramatically shorten the procurement process that currently takes approximately 12 months before the contract is awarded."

Transparency

The new law increased transparency, as bid opportunities would be seen in agency and DBM websites. It promoted competition: the playing field was leveled to allow small and medium contractors to bid. It limited discretion, and it sharpened the teeth of accountability via warranties and penal sanctions.

As a rule, the wider the scope for discretion among officials, the more likely was corruption.

The new law removed the pre-qualification of the bids and awards committees or BACs. These bodies were noted for their "awesome" discretionary powers.

Contracts would no longer be subject to long negotiation. The bidding process was simpler and transparent.

The law did away with the practice of setting a floor price for government contracts—these were often padded by cost adjustments. Rather, it set a ceiling price. It also required warranty periods on public works by the contractors. This proviso guarded against substandard work.

It set a cap on price adjustments and change orders. All bid prices were considered fixed prices. It widened the pool of bidders and suppliers for public transactions.

The new process used high technology to make sure that all bids were transparent.

E-procurement and an online registry could collect a database of suppliers, their products and prices. Companies caught cheating could be blacklisted in the website.

Comments to darroyo@philonline.com

For some firms, boardroom is for family

NEW YORK—US companies with family members sitting on boards of directors might find that father may not always know best as investors demand more accountability after the many costly corporate scandals that erupted in 2002.

Shareholders searching for potential conflicts of interest and concerned with directors' independence will likely look closer at boards that have sisters, brothers, aunts or cousins as well as the lucrative business deals that some dish out to their kin, those who study corporate governance said.

"When you are a large public company, you need a board that has a diverse set of competencies, and family members generally don't bring that. There is also a lack of independence," Mark Lipton, a management consultant and author of the book, "Guiding Growth," said.

Relatives on boards

Probably the most egregious breach of investor and family trust came to light when Adelphia Communications Corp. chief executive and founder John Rigas and his sons Timothy and Michael were arrested for fraud. Billions of dollars in loans to the Rigas family, guaranteed by the company, were disclosed in May 2002.

Statistics from Washington, D.C.-based research group Investor Responsibility Research Center show that about 11 percent of the companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 have relatives serving on boards.

Estee Lauder Cos. Inc., Viacom Inc., Tyson Foods Inc., Nordstrom Inc. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. are some of the many companies that have family members serving on their boards, according to data filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

"It's a difficult job for a board to monitor a company. If you throw a family relationship into the mix, it makes a difficult situation even more difficult," Charles Elson, director of the Center for Corporate Governance at the University of Delaware.

Fords at the wheel

In one example, Ford Motor Co. is run by chief executive officer William Clay Ford Jr., the great-grandson of founder Henry Ford. The CEO's father, William Clay Ford, sits on the company's board of directors along with his son and his nephew, Edsel Ford II.

William Clay Ford and Edsel Ford II both have consulting contracts with the company. William Ford is paid $100,000 a year and receives an office, security services and an assistant. A company in which Edsel Ford II has a majority stake was paid $44.5 million in 2001 for "marketing and related services," according to the company's 2002 proxy statement.

A spokesman for Ford would not elaborate on the company's business dealings with Edsel Ford II and could not say if the company's board approved these transactions.

Recently Elena Ford, a cousin of CEO Bill Ford Jr., was promoted to a senior management position. At the time, the company refused to say if she was being groomed for a seat on the board. But Elena Ford had acknowledged that wish in an interview with Newsweek magazine in June.

Although there are no rules against family members sitting on the boards of publicly traded companies, there is a bigger push for board independence. Under rules proposed by the New York Stock Exchange, a company's board would need independent directors to comprise over half of its board.

Relatives often frequent the boardrooms of companies where families retain a majority stake in a company, like Tyson.

While those companies are not subject to some NYSE requirements, they still have obligations to minority holders.

"By taking the public's money, you have an obligation to public shareholders to protect their interest," the University of Delaware's Elson, said. "The best way to protect their interest is through independent, long-term, equity holding directors."

Indeed, in sign of what may come, a group representing shareholders in the bankruptcy proceedings of Adelphia recently filed suit to force the cable operator to elect a new slate of directors that don't have ties to the Rigas family. Four of the six board members were named to their posts by the Rigas family.

Flock of Tysons

Tyson, the largest US meat producer, has three directors out of a proposed total of 10 who bear the name Tyson.

The company, which has come under fire for having too many people on its board with direct ties to the company, has made recent attempts to boost independence. Nonetheless, insiders still dominate.

In 2002 and other years, a "special committee" of the board reviewed millions in company payments to former senior chair Don Tyson for the use of wastewater treatment facilities, farms, and aircraft that he owned or partly owned, according to information from Tyson's most recent proxy statement.

Don Tyson also receives $800,000 a year under a 10-year contract to "furnish advisory services to the company," as well as travel and entertainment costs, the proxy said. Other family members receive payments from Tyson from farm leases and other rents.

A spokesman for Tyson did not immediately return calls.

At Nordstrom, the family ties are also thick and Nordstroms populate the executive suite and boardroom, but the company has received good marks in an ongoing turnaround.

Bruce Nordstrom is chairman of the board. His cousin, John Nordstrom, also sits on the board alongside Bruce's brother-in-law, Wayne Gittinger. Gittinger is an attorney whose firm did legal work for Nordstrom in 2002, according to the retailer's proxy statement.

Bruce Nordstrom's sons are Blake Nordstrom, president of the company, and Erik Nordstrom and Peter Nordstrom, both executive vice presidents. John Nordstrom's nephew is J. Daniel Nordstrom, who was CEO of Nordstrom.com until last June. The catalog and Internet unit, renamed Nordstrom Direct, is now run by Jim Bromley as president.

Blake Nordstrom was tapped in 2000 to head up the retailer after the former CEO was forced out after a string of disappointing quarters.

But in a sign that blood can be thicker than water for some investors, one buy-side analyst gives the family high marks for its management.

"The changes they are making and the numbers that they are generating are impressive, especially considering the environment we are in now," Joe Grabowski, retail analyst with Strong Capital Management, which owns Nordstrom shares, said. *Reuters*

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BUSINESS Monday

Small group strikes blow against corruption

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

THE ORGANIZATION is less than two years old. You can count their core members on two hands. They are a minor blip in the media's radar screen. And yet what they achieved will benefit the nation to the tune of billions of pesos every year.

Enter Procurement Watch Inc., (PWI) an NGO formed only in February 2001.

Its founder is Jose Edgardo Campos Jr., a respected international authority on corruption studies.

Campos gathered activists and academics to set up a watchdog against the dirty deals entangling the public sector.

Like many Filipinos, he was outraged by the nation's morass of corruption.

Knee deep in graft

In 2001 the Philippines got a dismal rating from Transparency-International's Corruption Perception Index. Nations were graded from 1 (very corrupt) to 10 (no corruption). The Philippines was rated 2.9.

Countries were also ranked from least corrupt, or No. 1, to most corrupt, or No. 91. The Philippines placed 65th in the list. Among nine east Asian countries, the nation was the second most corrupt.

Campos knew that much of this corruption took place, in government procurement, or its purchase of goods and services. For the state spent immense sums in extending highways, building schools, or buying textbooks.

Private firms sometimes made shady deals so that they bagged the mega-contracts.

The World Bank stated that the government lost $48 billion to procurement corruption over the last 20 years. That sum was "even greater than the country's foreign debt of $40.6 billion during that period."

According to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the nation wasted P22 billion per year to corruption from the public procurement of locally funded projects.

How big was that?

The sum, noted Procurement Watch, was twice the budget of the Department of Health. It could buy 520 million textbooks for school children or build them 63,000 new classrooms.

DBM Undersecretary Laura Pascua said that the government lost some 20 percent of the procurement budget to corruption. In fact the leakage was even greater in infrastructure—some projects were bled up to 50 percent.

Paper trail

Procurement Watch cited a 1996 Social Weather Stations survey which looked into sources of corruption. The top four government activities prone to sleaze money were:

a) Building roads

b) Collecting taxes

c) Providing free books to children in public schools

d) Installing modern equipment in government offices.

"Except for tax collection, the government activities deemed most susceptible to graft and corruption had something to do with procurement," said Campos.

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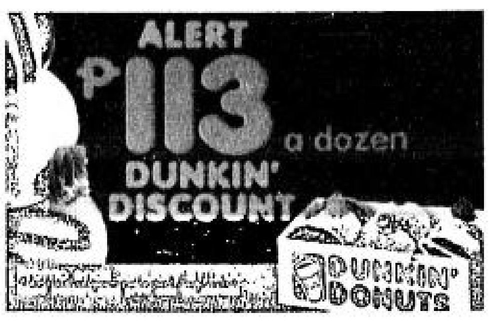


Raise the red lantern

Top Pinoy artists light up their versions of the Chinese lantern

By Dexter R. Matilla
Contributor

SINCE 230 B.C. in ancient China, the Lantern Festival has been one of the most anticipated traditions that mark the first moon of the lunar month in celebration of the Chinese New Year. Today, the festival remains a major celebration in modern-day China where lanterns are constructed and carefully handpainted.

So on Feb. 1, as the Year of the Snake slithers away and pave the way for the Year of the Goat, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC) will exhibit exquisite lantern designs done by 14 of the country's top visual artists.

"Festival of Lights" will run until Feb. 9 on the 2/F Grand Atrium, Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

"We wanted to do something unique for the Chinese New Year and based it on the lantern festival. But instead of the traditional lanterns, we asked artists to design them," said Laine Santana, HSBC assistant vice president for public affairs.

The exhibit includes works of Napoleon Abueva, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Malang, Raul Isidro, Ramon Orlina, Lao Lianben, Lilia Lao, Steve Santos, Soler Santos, Mona Santos, Jojo Lofranco, Eugene Jarque, Mac Valdezco and Lexigius Calip.

Although the artists were not confined to a specific theme, they were asked to select from three basic shapes to work on—round, cylindrical and rectangular.

"The lamps are made of polyester fiber with acrylic lining that has a surface texture similar to organic or paper pulp but with a sturdier support," said project coordinator Boots Herrera, who teaches Museum Studies at the University of the Philippines and is a consultant for the UP Vargas Museum and the University of Santo Tomas Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Challenge

Regardless of their personal styles, all the artists, especially those who work on two-dimensional formats, were challenged by the new material and functional nature of the lamps. Aside from approaching the lamp as a surface or ground, they also had to make sure it could still function as a source of illumination.

Acrylic pigment was the immediate choice for the painters because of its compatibility with the polyester fiber. But its application technique had to be carefully studied, keeping in mind the pigment's ability to achieve translucent and opaque qualities. One approach was to use linear and outlined forms rather than painterly and solid shapes.

Overlapping yellow and red outlines of women was how Malang approached his work, while Magsaysay-Ho created silhouette forms and chose to paint only on one side of a 24" tall tabletop lamp.

Soler and Mona Santos surrounded round bubble lamps with organic and nature-based shapes, also in a linear style—drawn by free hand or produced by using a masking technique as in a serigraph.

Steve Santos used red handmade paper and cut-out landscape scenes with assorted images such as a heart, a dove and a fish. Pasted on four sides of a rectangular lamp, it created a reversed effect—using the white surface as figure rather than the ground. It also recalls other folk art forms such as the traditional Chinese paper cuttings.

RAUL Isidro translates his geometric abstract compositions on the lower part of a tabletop lamp. He carefully applies thin layers of acrylic paint on the fiber surface.

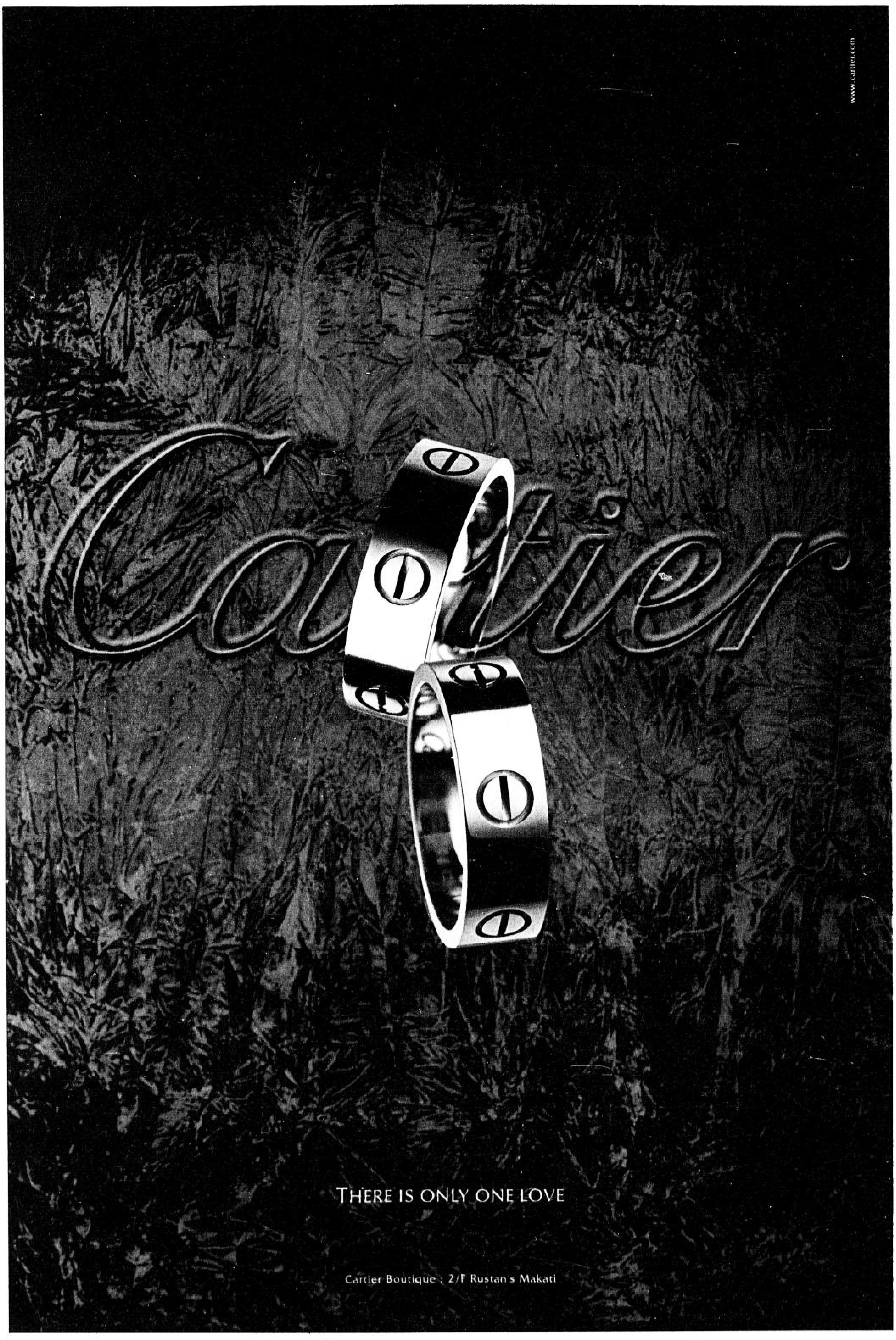
The painterly technique in applying pigment was also used. Isidro's geometric and broad shapes blended well with the textured surface. He saw that his usual bold contrasts with a dark background had to be carefully thought out to avoid an opaque effect when lit, so he used broad paint brushes and applied layers of dry and wet strokes of warm colors.

Even though he admits to being very cautious because of the seemingly delicate fiber, his lines are reminiscent of the swift and confident strokes in calligraphy.

Lofranco, also an abstractionist, used more of the wash technique. He conceived of the 24" tall lamp as a four-panel painting, each of which related yet distinct.

Other artists were invited for the show because of their mixed-media works. Lao Lian-

RAISE/ D2



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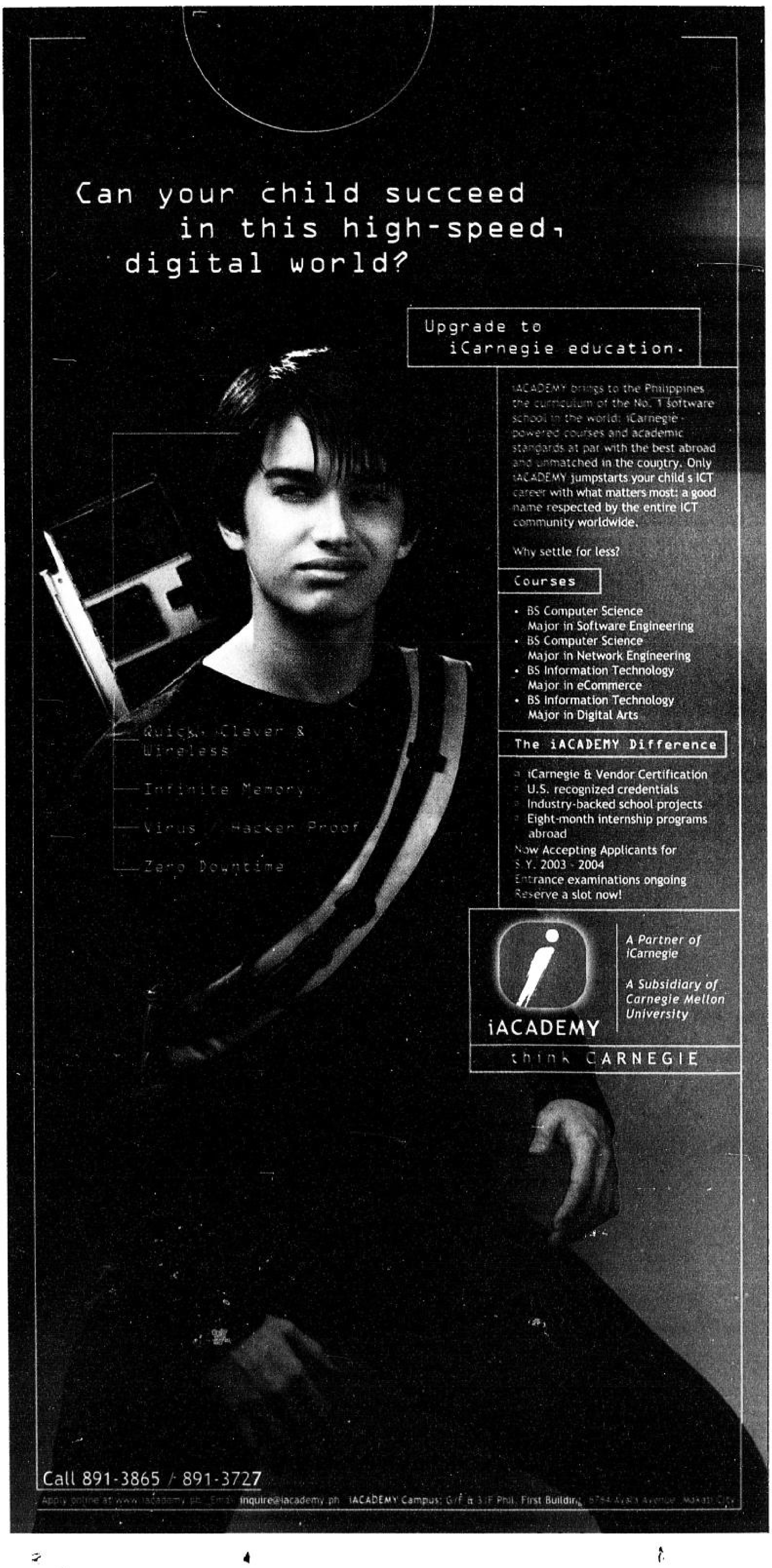
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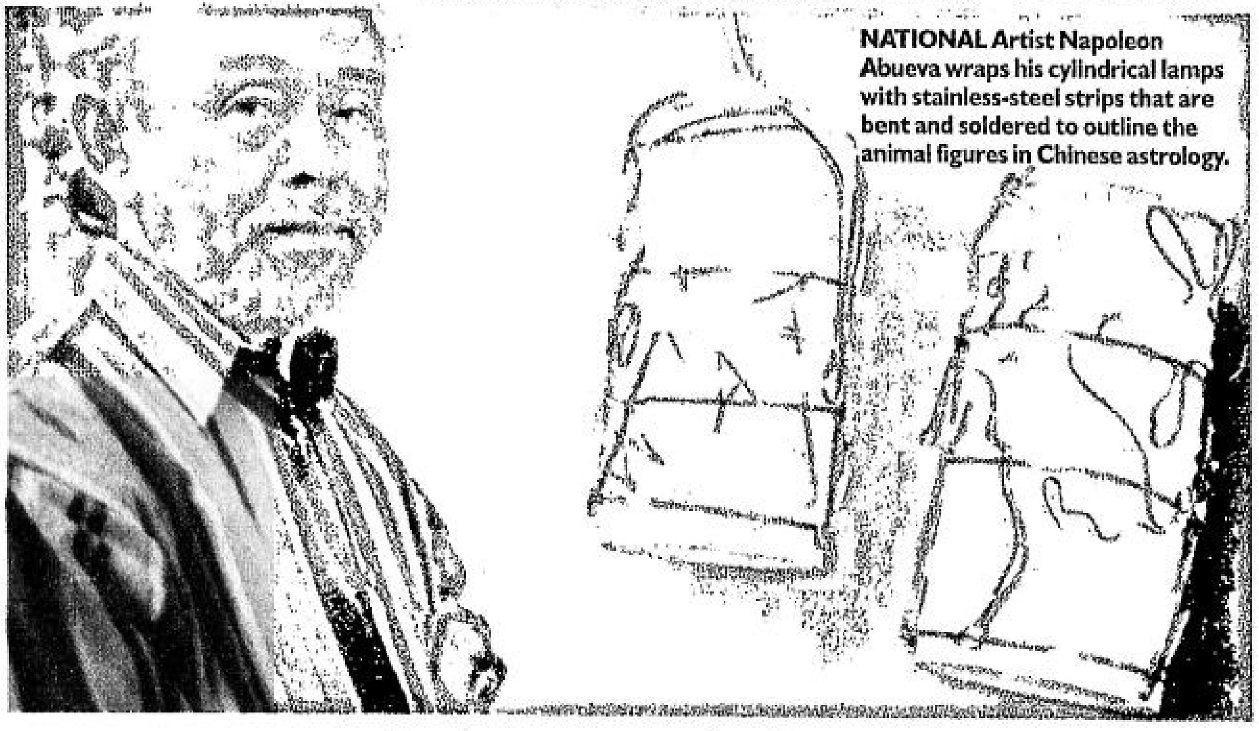


NATIONAL Artist Napoleon Abueva wraps his cylindrical lamps with stainless-steel strips that are bent and soldered to outline the animal figures in Chinese astrology.

Raise the red lantern

From page D1

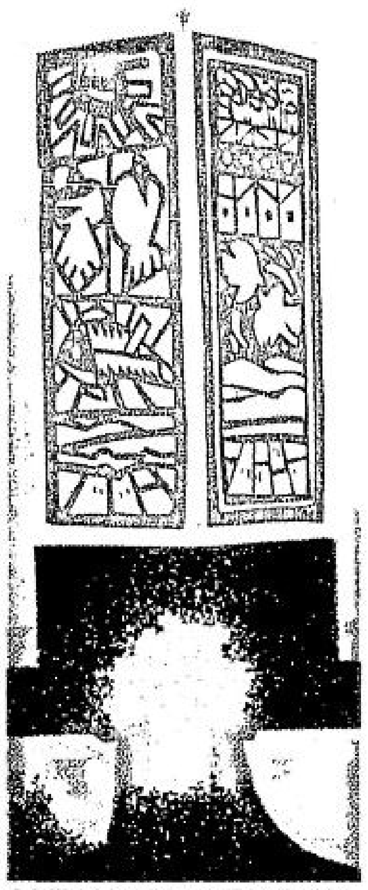
ben and Lilia Lao are both known for their minimalist styles in nonfigurative and figurative modes, respectively, which goes well with the original design of the lamps.

Calip works more with the subdued tones of white and gray. He slowly built up layers of acrylic with paper collage, which were cut from his old discarded works, and added etched linear strokes and pencil markings. Small sections of the fiber surface were peeled off to expose the smooth matte finish of the acrylic lining.

Jarque achieved textural contrast by pasting strips of lead and metallic industrial tape, both bluish-gray in color.

In sculpture, National Artist Abueva found the linear form more suitable. He wrapped cylindrical hanging lamps with stainless steel strips bent and soldered to trace silhouettes of the animals in Chinese astrology. This creates a decorative tracery when unlit and a shadowy pattern when lit.

Following his current series of stainless-steel and glass sculptures, Orlina designed a cluster of tubular vines with glass leaves sprouting upward.



A 24" tabletop lamp designed by Steve Santos with paper cutouts depicting landscape scenes with a religious theme

Organic shapes are also found in the work of Mac Valdezco, who used fiber and woven fabrics for her soft sculptures. She wrapped the cylindrical lamps with cotton thread in deep red color.

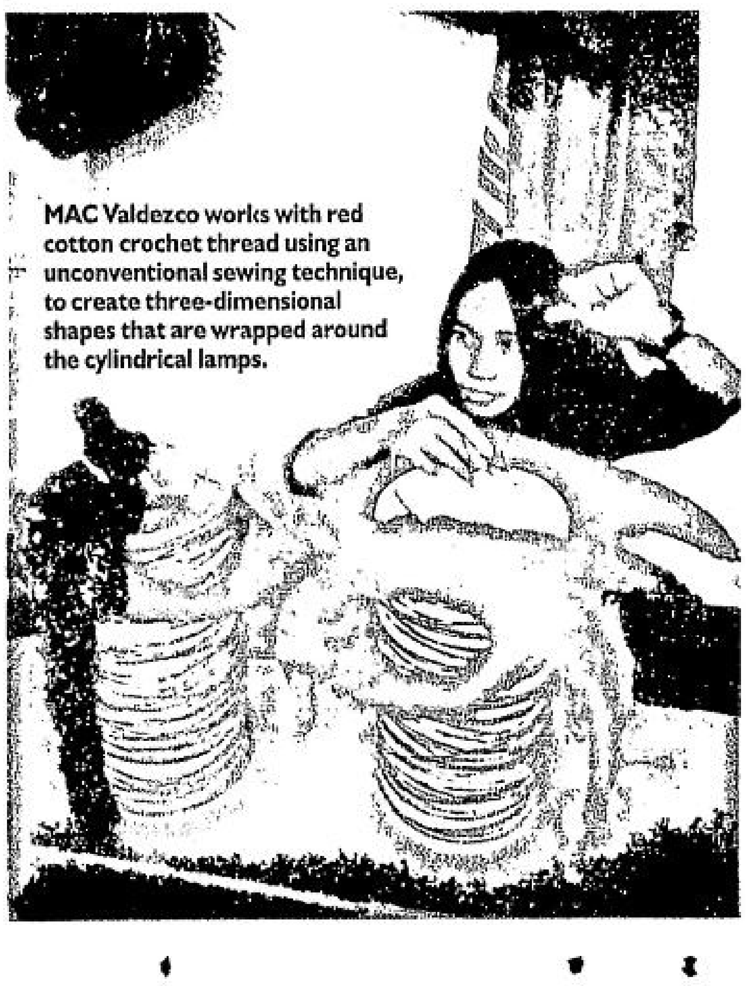
Her irregular forms, however, are more three-dimensional, created by clumping thread—as in molding clay—and stiffening them by stitching randomly until it is compressed into shape.

MALANG chooses to paint outlined figures of his women vendors, as if dancing in a circle around the 20" bubble lamp.

HSBC continues to take an active role as partner in the art community. While most corporate art programs often begin as an acquisition phase, HSBC has chosen to give contemporary artists opportunities and avenues to display their works and make them accessible to a wider audience.

"This is a celebration not only of lights as an integral element in the New Year festivities, but also of Filipino artistry. The range and depth of creativity highlighted in this show can be seen as an auspicious sign of the things in store for us this New Year," said Warner Manning, HSBC's chief executive officer.

Lising Crafts Inc. fabricated the lamps, which will be on sale. Artists will donate a portion of the proceeds to help HSBC set up a fund for young artists.



MAC Valdezco works with red cotton crochet thread using an unconventional sewing technique, to create three-dimensional shapes that are wrapped around the cylindrical lamps.

Salvador at West, Twigg at Duemila, Tan at 139

JUNI Salvador mounts his sixth solo exhibit "Id" at the West Gallery, where he goes introspective with his installation and mixed-media works. Show runs Jan. 30-Feb. 11, West Gallery, Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Call 634-1284.

GALLERIA Duemila presents Tony Twigg's fifth solo exhibit in Manila, Feb. 3-16. "Houses Under Construction" features 15 art works in various media, developed from a series of pencil drawings Twigg did after visiting Manila last year. Galleria Duemila is at the Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall, Building A, Ortigas, Mandaluyong City. Call 634-3261 or 633-6667.

GALLERY 139 presents the evolving style and confident brushstrokes of Jeanne Tan in "Escape," solo shows that showcase arresting seascapes and still life. The exhibitions are simultaneously held on Jan. 30-Feb. 25 at Gallery 139 at the Artwalk, 4/L of SM Megamall, Building A, Mandaluyong City; and on Jan. 31-Feb. 26 at Gallery 139, Art Space, 3/L of Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City.

The artist describes her work as "very meticulous and very focusing," while fellow artists and Antipolo Thursday Group members Antipas Delotavo and Inday Calapan have regarded Jeanne's latest creations as "changing and surreal."

SINGER Anna Fegi was the subject of an on-the-spot painting session at the Marikina Riverbanks by Aquarelle and Sining Marikina. The artistis included Aquarelle founder Roland Santos, Isagani Fuentes, Nick Paz, Nik Masangkay, Rogie Gapayao, Elber Panuella, Noel Rile, Ren Maglalang, Rhoel Galit and Mar Bongalon The works are on exhibit at the Taverna, Riverbanks, Marikina, until Feb. 2.

"DUHA," a Visayan word meaning "two," opens the year for Linya Gallery. Featuring the works of Kurt Lluch of Iligan City and Michael Lagos of Cagayan de Oro City, the show runs until Feb. 7.

Linya Gallery is at G & S Padilla Bldg., A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tibanga, Iligan City. Call (063) 221-6312 or email linya_gallery@yahoo.com.

HENRI Cainglet is holding a major solo exhibit until Feb. 8 at SM Megamall's Art Center. "From New York to Payatas" is a collection of paintings and sculptures done in the last three years. Call (0916) 691-5113.

"COMPOSITIONS in Pastel" is ongoing at the MAC Gallery until Jan. 31. MAC is along Commerce Avenue corner Museum Drive, Ayala Alabang (beside the St. Jerome Church near the Alabang Town Center). Call 842-0127.

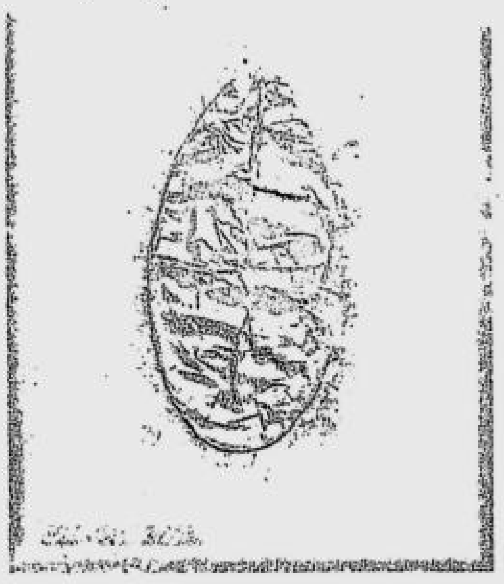
ALLIANCE Française de Manille brings contemporary French graphic design to the Philippines through a collective exhibit, made possible by Le Centre Pompidou, in cooperation with the Association Française d'Action Artistique and the French Embassy in Manila.

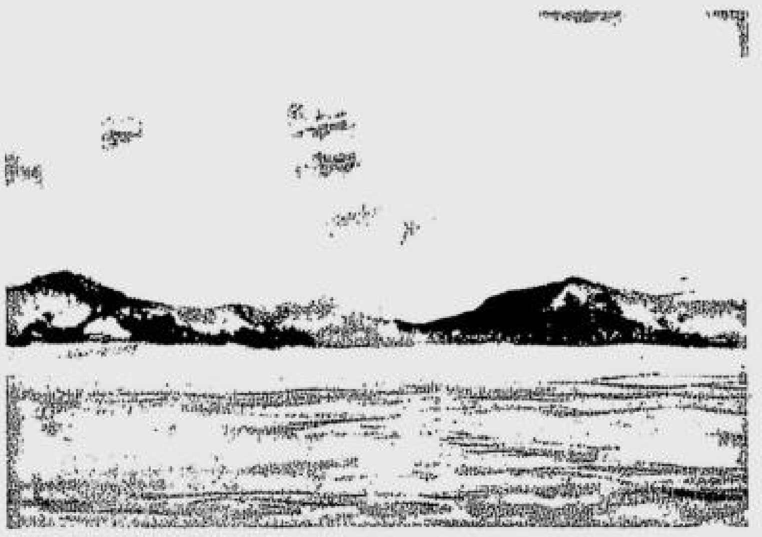
"Signes" is a paneled exhibit composed of graphic designing by Rik Bas Backer, Pascal Colrat, Laurent Fetis, Muriel Paris/Alex Singer, Laurent Seroussi, Martin Verdet/Philippe Laktis.

The show runs until Jan. 31 at Alliance Francaise de Manille's Totalfinaelf Gallery, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City. Call 895-7585/7441.

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights has organized a fund-raising art and design exhibition, "Pagtatagpo," at the Galleria of the RCBC Plaza in Makati City until today.

"Pagtatagpo" aims to form a trust fund that will support programs that address the plight of children from poor families of death-row convicts. The exhibit is a rare event of gathering aesthetic expressions to furnish a venue of hope for uplifting lives. Call 928-5655 or 929-0102.


"UBIQUITOUS Pink" by Juni Salvador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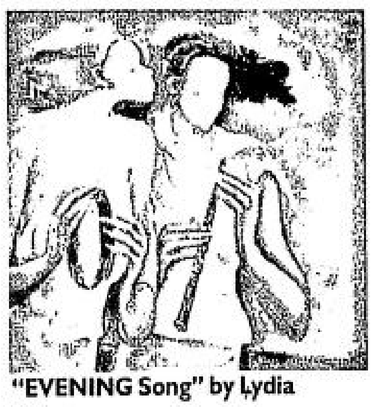
Velasco, Alegre and Rubio play beautiful 'Musique' together

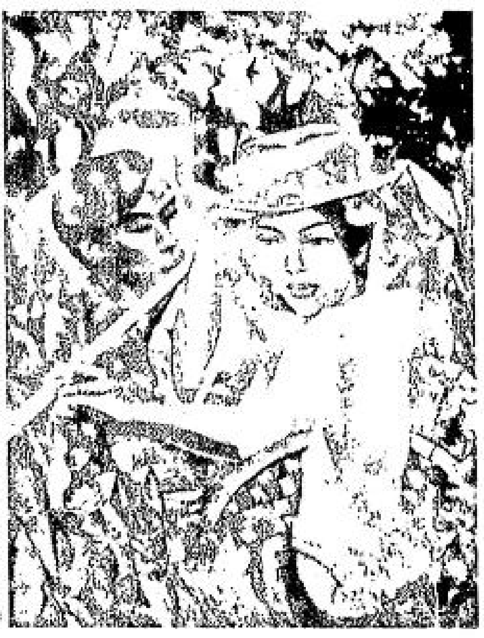
NOTED painters Lydia Velasco, Hermes Alegre and Dominic Rubio, together with promising young artists Edwin Tres Reyes and Ronnie Tatjari, will hold "La Musique" at the Galerie Joaquin (2/F 371 corner P. Guevarra St. and Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan) on Jan. 31 until Feb. 12.

The exhibit features 25 works that revolve around music. The artists pay tribute to the art form best known for its purity and its capacity to express human emotions through rhythms, melody, harmony, timbre and texture.

Velasco's five paintings are characterized by ethereality. Alegre's works show tranquility amid mobility as suggested by swaying trees, plants and flowers.

Rubio concentrates on string or wind instruments humanized by women musicians dressed in Fil-


"EVENING Song" by Lydia Velasco


"THE COURTSHIP (Ligawan)" by Hermes Alegre

Philips launches new TV technology

PHILIPS Consumer Electronics (PCE), one of the world's largest consumer electronics companies, recently launched Pixel Plus, its latest TV innovation that promises to revolutionize the way we watch TV.

Top Philips executives, headed by general manager Angelo Valenton, newly appointed Philips president and CEO Med Mateo and Singapore-based marketing consultant for color televisions Michael Chang attended the event.

Members of the press likewise came in full force to see for themselves what Philips' new technology can do.

The Pixel Plus combines state-of-the-art digital image processing technologies to improve the image quality of everything from video games, DVD movies, to even ordinary TV signals. With Pixel Plus, Philips once again sets a new standard in TV viewing.

"Philips has always been a pioneer when it comes to developing new technology for TV," says Valenton. "And our place as a major industry leader comes not just by bringing our consumers top quality products, but also making sure we improve on these products to suit their changing needs and lifestyles."

And Philips achieves this with the Pixel Plus which, according to Chang, heralds a Resolution Revolution. "We say that it is a Resolution Revolution because Pixel Plus is geared towards providing viewers with images of incredible sharpness, natural detail and motion smoothness never seen before on conventional TVs," says Chang.

Conducting a presentation on Pixel Plus, Chang explains that the technology improves picture resolution by doubling the number of lines eliminating line structure especially visible on large screens. Next, it increases the number of pixels in each line from 720 to 2048, delivering a total of 2 million pixels per picture frame, more than 5 times that of conventional television -- a resolution that could only be previously achieved in high definition TV.

To cap off the presentation, the curtains were raised to reveal top model Isabel Roces watching movies on the Pixel Plus TV. Already, the press can see that Pixel Plus gives outstanding picture resolution and clarity.

Answering the challenge of host Edu Manzano to "put his money where his mouth is" Chang further astonished the guests by daring to compare the Pixel Plus TV set with the top-end products of competitors. The Philips TV was set up side by side with two other units. Showing the same footage from one DVD player, the press was amazed to see that Pixel Plus really gave outstanding picture quality and the most natural details. Even the smallest details are seen and enhanced.

Pixel Plus also complements other Philips innovations. Says Chang, "Pixel Plus works in complete harmony with the Digital Natural Motion feature, which eliminates motion judder, as well as the Full Active Control feature that automatically adjusts important variables to optimize picture performance."

The new Pixel Plus technology is definitely a much-awaited innovation in today's market. With outstanding performance and sleek design, Pixel Plus combines the best of Philips in one package. It's another amazing addition to a long line of Philips innovations, all developed to give credence to the company's pledge to make things better.

For further information, please contact:

Elen Torres, marketing communications supervisor
Philips Consumer Electronics
(632) 845-7848
elena.l.torres@philips.com

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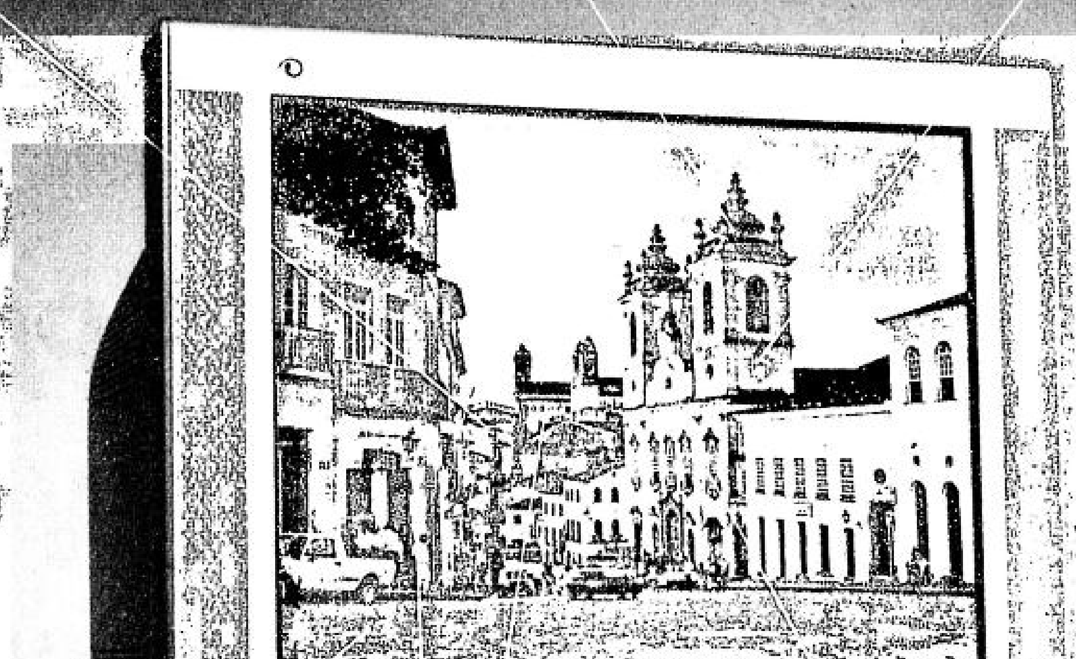

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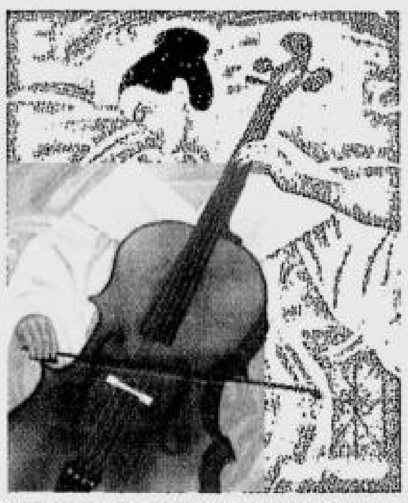
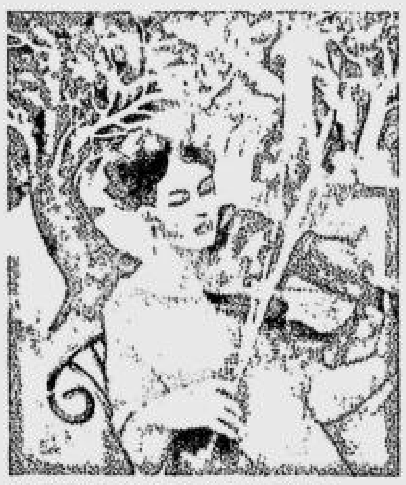
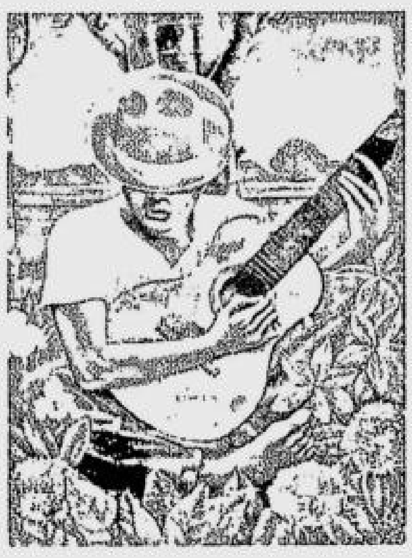

"MUSIKA (Cello III)" by Dominic Rubio


"DAY'S Serenade (Music I)" by Hermes Alegre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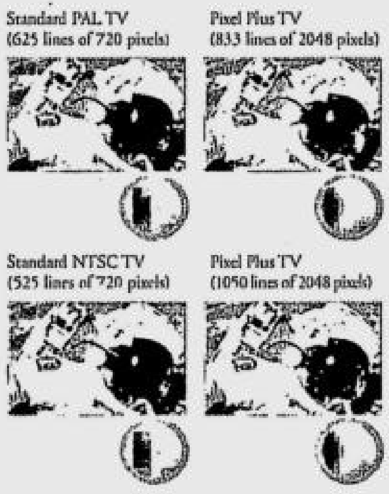
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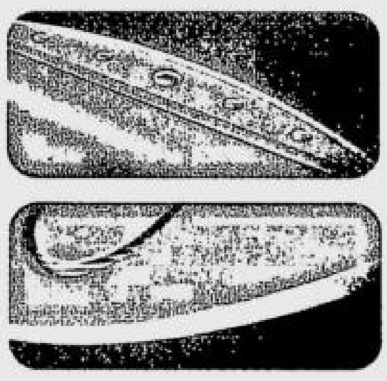

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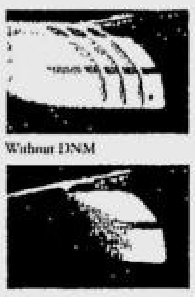

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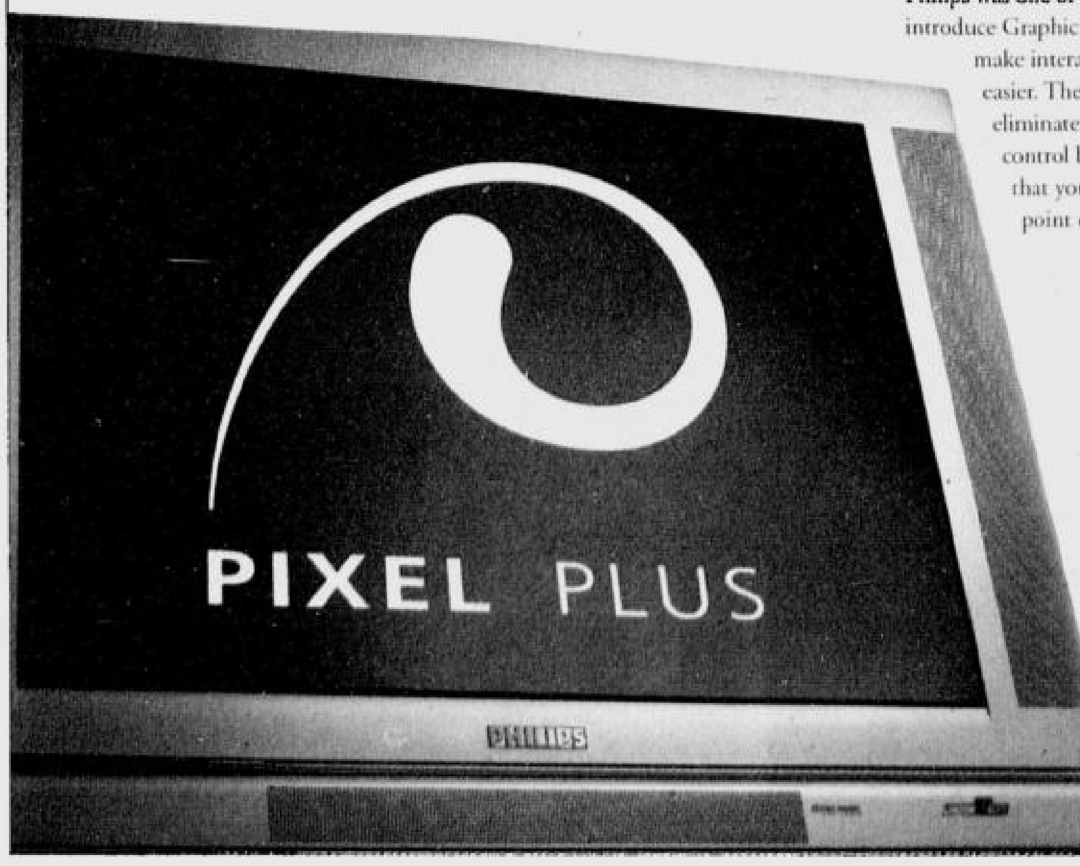

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PCE marketing consultant for color televisions Michael Chang

PCE general manager Angelo Valenton

MODELS with the new Philips Pixel Plus TV

FROM left: PCE consumer and trade marketing manager Lea Baterna; PCE general manager Angelo Valenton; PCE marketing consultant for color TVs Michael Chang; PCE marketing communications supervisor Elen Torres; and Edu Manzano

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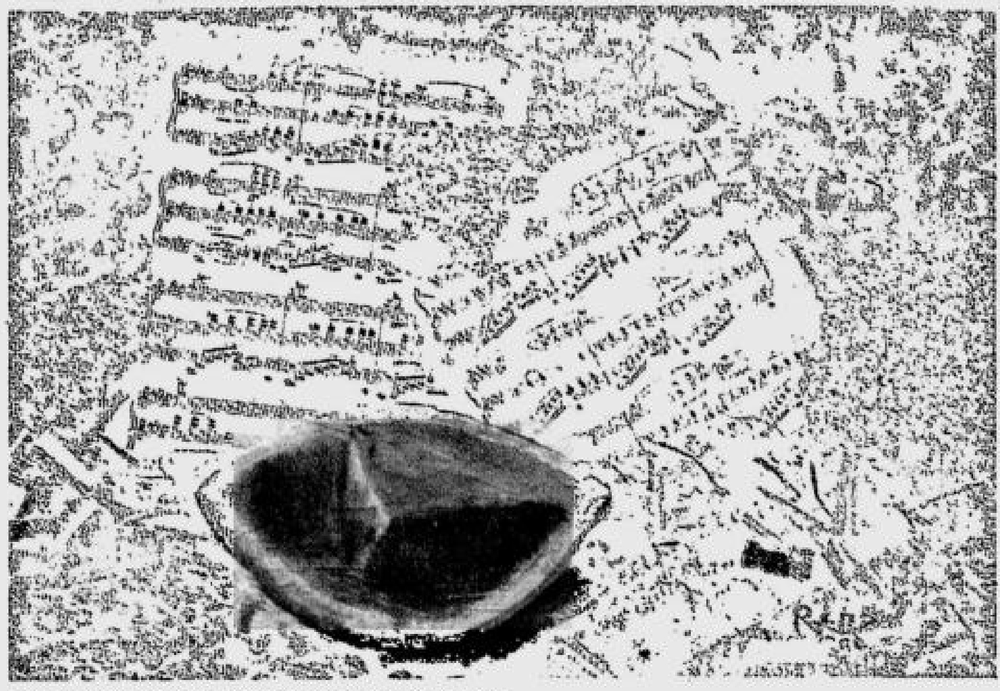
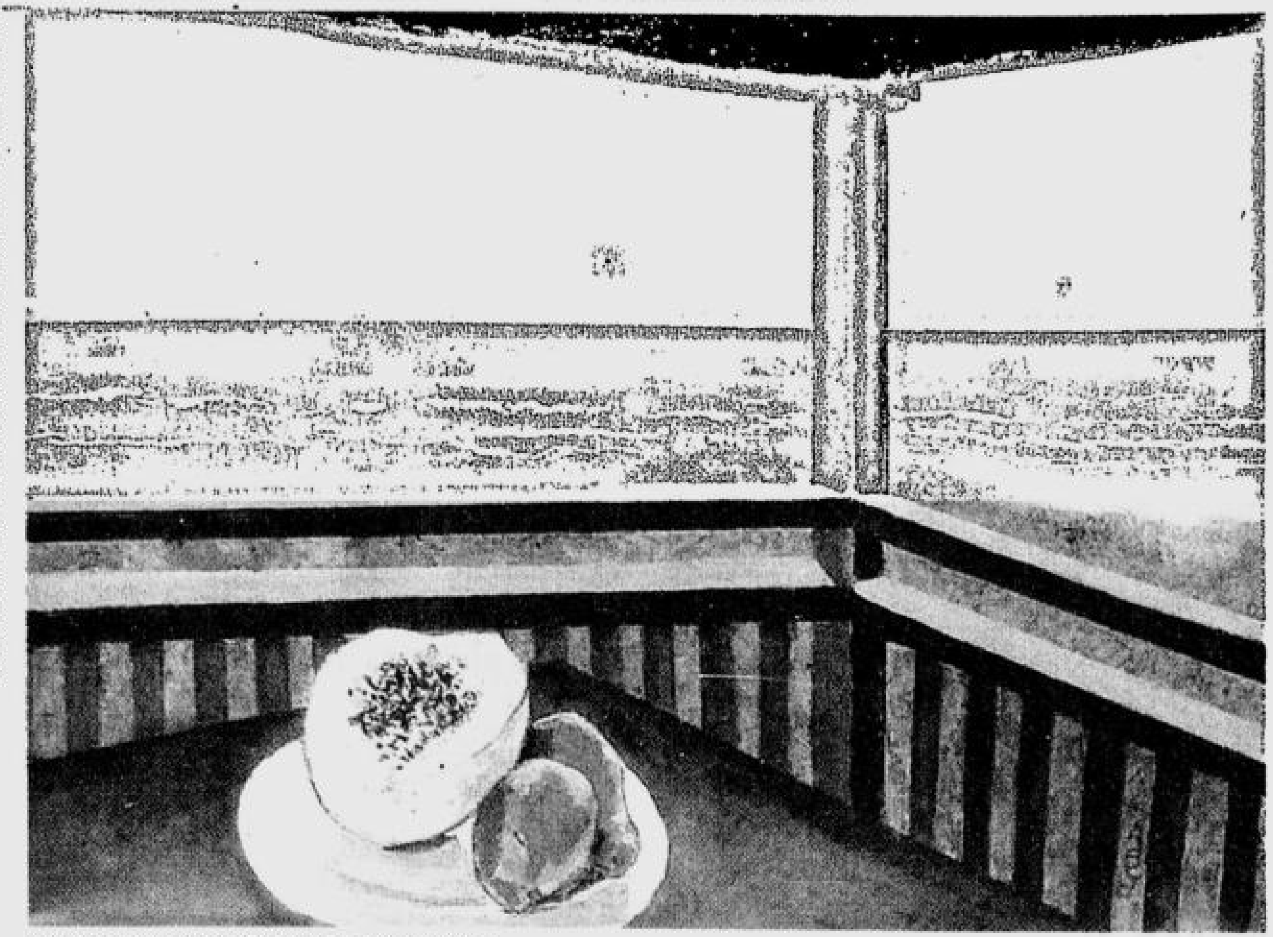


"WATERMELON Suite," assemblage on canvas



"BY THE SEA" welds landscape and still life.

Subtlety and enigma in Alfredo Roces' art

By Constantino C. Tejero

ALFREDO Roces, now based in Sydney, Australia, is showing in the country his latest works in the exhibit "Landscape/Still Life," 15 pieces of acrylic and oil on canvas, until Jan. 31 in Galleria Duemila at the Artwalk, 4/F SM Megamall A.

Known more as a journalist, cultural writer and editor (he was editor in chief of the 10-volume encyclopedia "Filipino Heritage," and author of the books "Amorsolo," "The Filipino Nude," "Sansó," "Philippine Cartoons 1900-1945," "Legaspi: The Making of a National Artist"), Roces is also an accomplished artist (grand prize winner in the Art Association of the Philippines annual painting competition; AAP Artist of the Year Award in 1974). He has even tried his hands in pottery and sculpture.

The "landscape" in the exhibit's title is actually seascapes, probably of Australia. "By the Sea" welds the two elements in the title, as the piece is both still life and landscape.

It depicts three fruits in a corner of a porch by the sea, a golden papaya sliced open and two green ones on a white plate on a maroon table set against the cobalt blue of the hand rail and balusters, the ochre of the beach, the indigo of the sea, the turquoise of the sky.

"Twilight Tide" is a seascape in gray, maroon, ochre, with white streaks and orange highlight.

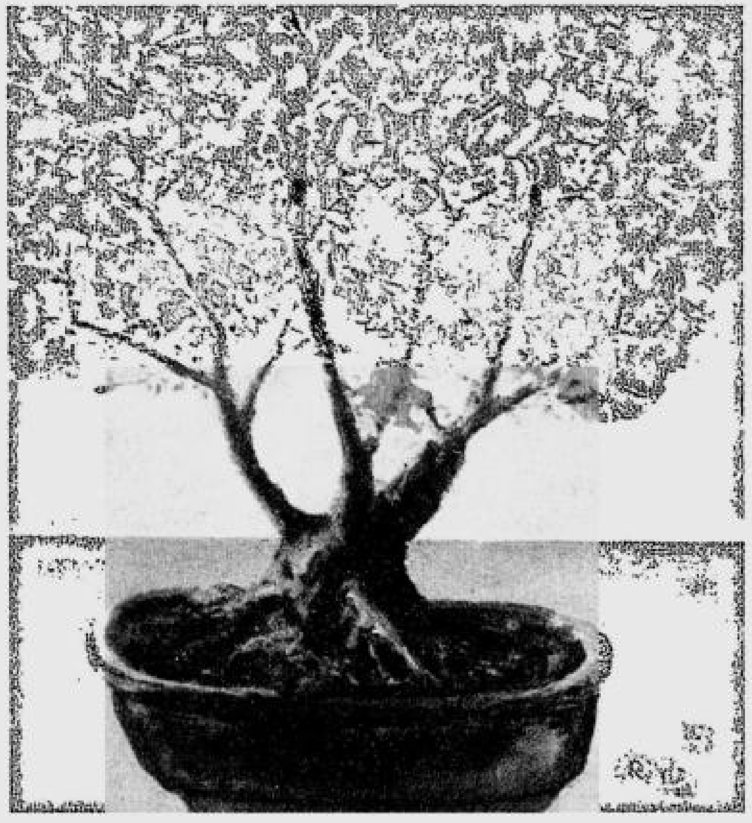
"Sand and Surf," another seascape, is in blue, plum, gray, white, with a sandy texture. On the canvas' surface are bonded grains of sand to depict dunes and sandbars.

Textural element

This is an example of what the artist calls "acrylic collage" or "assemblage on canvas," another name for Robert Rauschenberg's "combine painting." (In the local art scene, the technique is also exemplified by the "painted reliefs" of Roberto Robles.)

"Half-Forgotten Symphony" incorporates on the canvas a music sheet and a white quill, while "Watermelon Suite" has music sheets, dabs of concrete, scattered bits of reed, amidst which is set the image of a slice of the scarlet fruit on its green rind.

THE ARTIST with Galleria Duemila art director Silvana Diaz



"IRENE'S Azalea," a study in subtle coloration and vivid contrast

Roces says he uses the technique primarily for texture. He applies acrylic paste to hold the object, then acrylic gel as a kind of overglaze.

The still lifes in the exhibit, mostly of tropical fruits and flowers, are pure studies in composition, form and structure, color variations.

"Study in Grey and Yellow," showing a slice of jackfruit and a bunch of bananas, has the angular and curving forms of pale yellow outlined and highlighted with brown against a flat gray background.

A similar study in subtle coloration is "Mangosteen and Lanzones," of ochre and violet-blue against gray. And so is "Musika," with the tannish brown of the mushrooms against the white and slate blue of the music sheets and the mahogany of the lectern.

Meanwhile, "Mandarin Fugue," depicting two mandarin oranges and a ball of crumpled white music sheet against gray, is a study in both subtle coloration and vivid contrast of drabness and brilliance.

And so are the floral still lifes, such as "Irene's Azalea" and "Azalea Bonsai," with the fuchsia of the blossoms and the cobalt blue of the porcelain against the gray and slate blue of the wall and ground.

Strange juxtaposition

Roces says he likes juxtaposing disparate images and objects for the dreamlike quality it produces. There is no symbolism here, just suggestiveness, the enigma.

"Tulad ng magkatabi na bulaklak at ulo ng santo," he says.

He wants the viewer to participate in the mystery, to wonder what it is about, to ask questions. He does not believe in symbols being fed to the viewer, but in dream as suggestion, as a pointer and guide for the viewer.

The still lifes are simple but not naive. They possess a purity of line and color as can be found in the still lifes of Chinese folk artists.

"I really like the Chinese and Japanese still lifes," he admits. *"Hangang-hanga ako. Simple lang ang pag*-apply *ng* paint."

Vermeer is also a favorite of his, then Rembrandt. And so are the Impressionists, particularly Degas and Monet, and the abstractionists, particularly Pollock and Rauschenberg.

Roces started painting when he was 14, while taking private lessons under Dominador Castañeda (who headed the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts after Fernando Amorsolo).

He received his degree in fine arts from the University of Notre Dame in the United States, then studied drawing technique under the German Expressionist George Grosz. He held his first solo exhibit in the Philippines in 1958.

"Mahilig ako sa still life *noong araw pa,"* he recalls.

He also did nudes, portraits and landscapes in his younger days. The seascapes in this exhibit are not necessarily of Australia but of Matabungkay, from his memories of that Batangas coastline in its pristine state, when his family used to go there.

Freewheeling art

He did abstraction as well, from the late 1950s through the mid-'70s, to which he may later return.

In fact, a piece included in the exhibit, "Blossoms in the Sand," with its streaks of violet and yellow flowers and green vines and leaves against the gray, white and blue of sand, water and sky, looks almost abstract.

For those looking for social realism in art, try "Hello, Joe," the only work in this exhibit that's not a genre piece.

It portrays two cabaret girls, long-haired and fleshy, the brown-skinned one in a plum dress and the yellow-skinned in blue, against a maroon wall with a cathedral-shaped jukebox beside them. Both are wearing a smile that verges between seduction and smirk.

Roces now wants to experiment in line works depicting gymnasts, athletes in motion, in oil, acrylic or collage.

"My art is freewheeling, *hindi nakakahon,*" he says. "I can go from figurative to abstract, from landscape to still life."

But he wouldn't encourage his offspring to become artists.

"Alam mo naman, mahirap ang artist," he says. *"Kaya napilitan akong sumulat.* Also, I didn't like the kind of art criticism in those days, *kaya nakisali na rin ako.* Some critics didn't even try interviewing the artists, they just wrote what came to their minds. *Barumbado kung sumulat."*

He believes critics should be sympathetic to artists, and they should be supportive of art-making. These days it is the critics, the theorists and the curators who are directing the course of the artists in the country, dictating what art is acceptable and what is not, instead of the other way around.

JAMES Onglepho, Cris Cruz, Yasmin Cuenca, Sophia Cuyegkeng, Rep. Joaquin Chipeco and Nelia Chipeco, Malang, former Gov. Pricila Chiongbian and Anita Y. Lim

Happy birthday to Manansala

THE LATE National Artist Vicente Manansala was toasted in "The Birthday Show: A Foliage to Manansala" by his fellow January birthday celebrators Cris Cruz, Malang and James Onglepho.

The show, which consists of works by Manansala and the three artists, runs until Feb. 3 at the Asia Art Gallery (6/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City).

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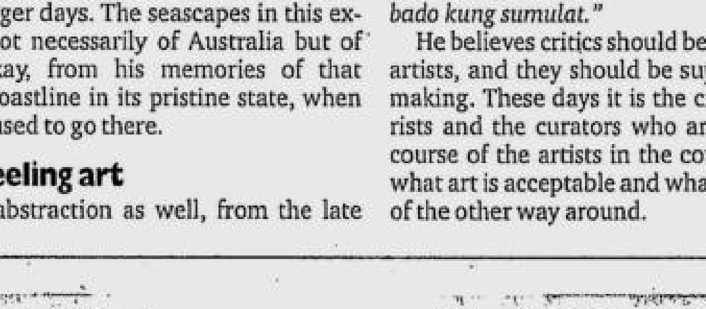

BIRTHDAY celebrators Cris Cruz, Malang and J. Onglepho blow their birthday candles.

ONGLEPHO with Sophia Cuyegkeng

MARY Chua with Cruz and Malang

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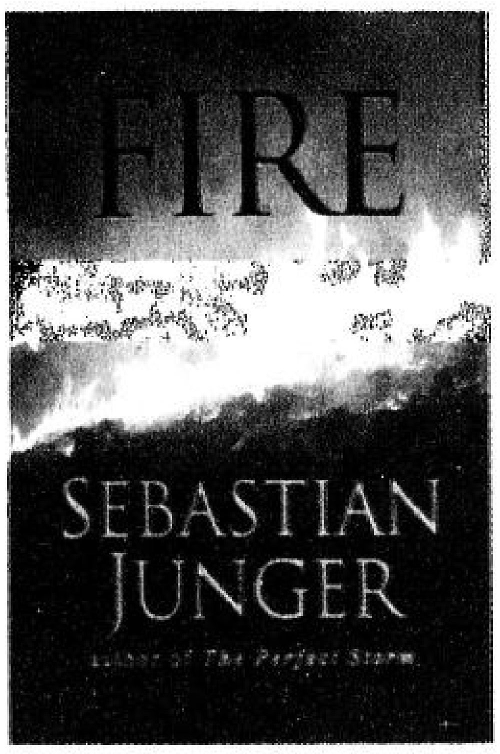
Through the 'Fire' with Sebastian Junger

Fire
By Sebastian Junger
W.W. Norton & Company, New York
2001, 224 pages

By Ruel S. De Vera



The journalist behind 'The Perfect Storm' explores the trajectory of everyday danger in this collection of reportage from the world's front lines

REVIEW

WHILE it was "The Perfect Storm," his gripping true-to-life tale of young men and the dangers of the sea, that turned Sebastian Junger into an overnight sensation, the talented journalist had actually been reporting from some of the world's most war-torn locales for a while. In fact, "The Perfect Storm" began ostensibly as an article for the magazine Outside, later expanded to a best-selling book and transformed into a George Clooney special effects showcase.

Yet the heart of "The Perfect Storm" was Junger's unflinching, poetic take on what motivated those doomed fishermen on The Andrea Gail; what makes men engage in one of the most dangerous jobs on earth. That same perspective pervades "Fire," a gut-wrenching yet irresistible collection of Junger's magazine writing.

What becomes immediately clear to the reader is that Junger is indeed drawn to danger, to adventure, and ultimately, to understanding. From his introduction to the last essay, Junger tries to come to grips with what it is that drives him, and his subjects, to risk life and limb to do what it is that they do. "Fire" is in effect a discourse and descent into man's ability to overcome fear—or to create it.

"Fire" is a guided tour through the earth's forsaken zones, where man has turned into animal and where death is an everyday reality. Junger himself has some close calls but soldiers on, much like the people he meets along the way in Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Cyprus, Afghanistan and Kashmir.

Junger's journeys through destinations scarred by ethnic cleansing and civil war are terrifying and terrific. He writes in such illuminating detail that one can't help but be horrified and impressed at the same time. And there are times when even the grizzled observer of human cruelty in Junger is aghast and caught off-guard by the savagery of what surrounds him.

Queasy readers will just have to avoid "Fire" because it does not flinch in the face of mass graves, decapitations and executions: "This is war, too, and you have to look straight at it, I told myself. You have to look straight at all of it or you have no business being there at all."

Yet even as Junger chronicles inhumanity, he also profiles man's capacity for heroism in duty and tragedy. The two fantastic essays dealing with the hotshots who live and die battling forest fires is not only a treatise on courage but a virtual science lesson as well. Junger explains the whys and the what-ifs that attach themselves to forest fires and the people who fight them.

Hostage crises, the ritual life of a whale hunter, the resolve of a Northern Alliance leader about to strike back at the Taliban: all these Junger approaches with a grim determination to uncover intent and to cover events. In several cases, he actually has to find some cover when rocket-propelled grenades and bullets come calling. Readers will surmise that he is lucky to have survived, and so are those who will experience this particular "Fire."

Beyond Junger's 360° view of a world at war with itself, "Fire" is also a personal chronicle that shows us the beginnings of Junger's journey to the front lines. From his tree-climbing days to his tea time with the Afghan freedom fighters, he tries to come to terms with why people do these things: why murderers murder, why victims are victimized and why heroes stand their ground.

It is in his essay on the life of 19th-century fur trapper John Colter that Junger comes face-to-face with this riddle, that of danger and adventure: "The word comes from the Latin 'adventura,' meaning 'what must happen.' An adventure is a situation where the outcome is not entirely within your control. It's up to fate, in other words. It should be pointed out that people whose lives are inherently dangerous, like coal miners or steelworkers, rarely seek 'adventure.' Like most things, danger ceases to be interesting as soon as you have no choice in the matter. For the rest of us, threats to our safety and comfort have been so completely wiped out that we have to go out of our way to create them."

This is not a second "Perfect Storm." Instead, each essay within "Fire" is a miniature "Perfect Storm," a caged universe of tragedy and heroism. Each story bears the weariness of the warrior who has seen it all and the intellectual courage of the philosopher who still seeks to change it all.

Sebastian Junger is our literary escort, a writer who proves his efficiency when we see he is just as terrified and as capable of great things as we are.

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World Youth Union to hold Manila conference

THE WORLD Youth Union (WYU), an international youth organization based in the Philippines that acts as a forum for regional exchange of ideas and cultures, will hold the first Philippine Youth Conference with the theme "WYU: Why Us? The Role of the Filipino Youth in Nation-Building" on Jan. 30-Feb. 1 at the Thomas Aquinas Research Complex of the University of Santo Tomas.

The conference will focus on the youth's role in the media, family, education, and industry. Speakers include Emily Abrera of McCann Erickson-Philippines, Dr. Erlinda Pefianco of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, Rina Jimenez-David of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Eugenia Duran-Apostol of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power Inc. Other activities include community visits and immersion, dialogues, synthesis, fora and cultural programs.

Call 731-2985 or 731-3101 local 8267 and look for Jocelyn Obispo or Thelma Marana, or call 731-3119 and look for Reyann Kong. Log on to www.twyu.org.

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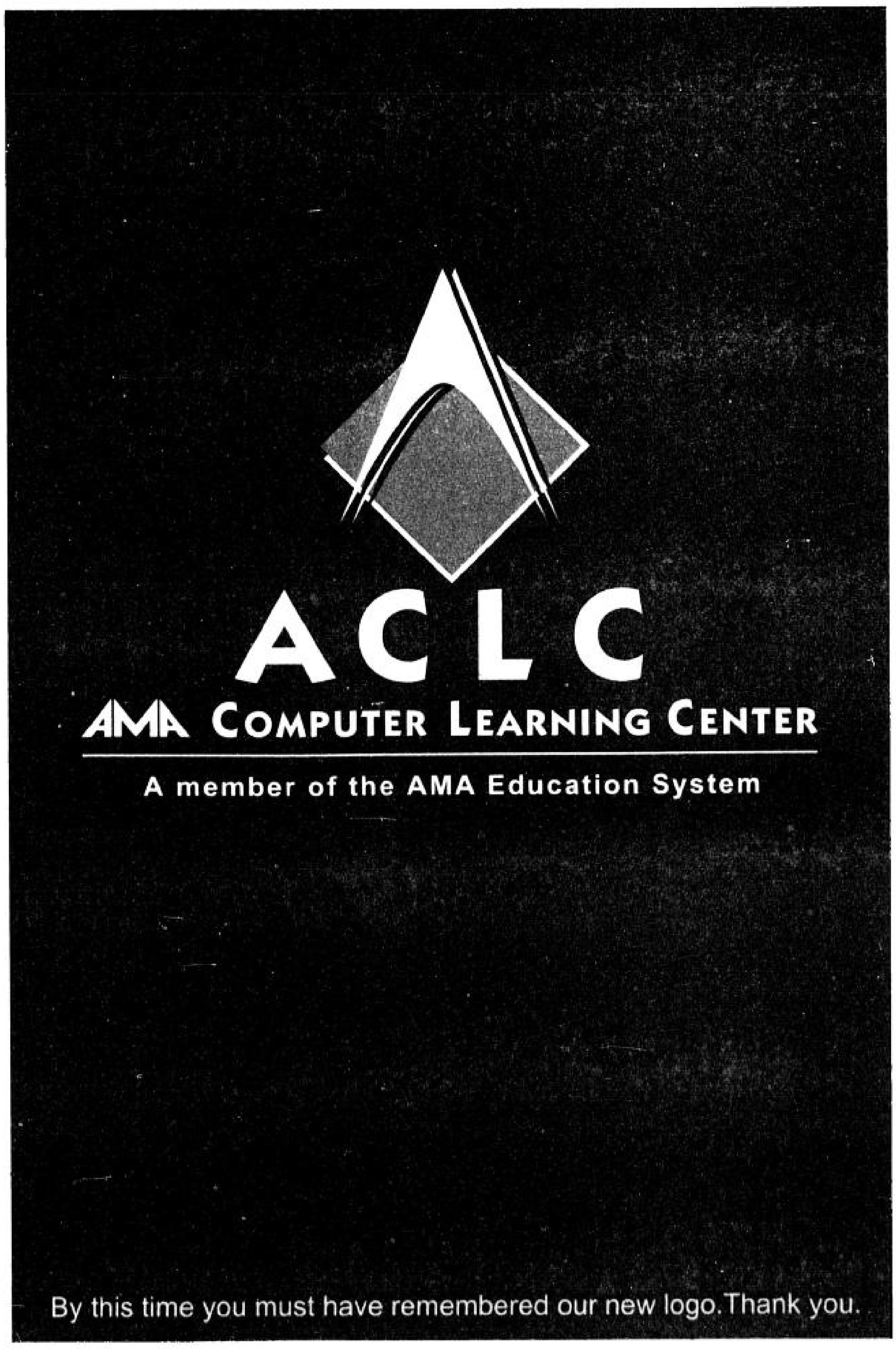
THE MIRIAM College High School Glee Club, under the direction of Nancy C. Roman, will be having its concert on Feb. 15, 6 p.m., at the UP Abelardo Hall Auditorium, Diliman, QC.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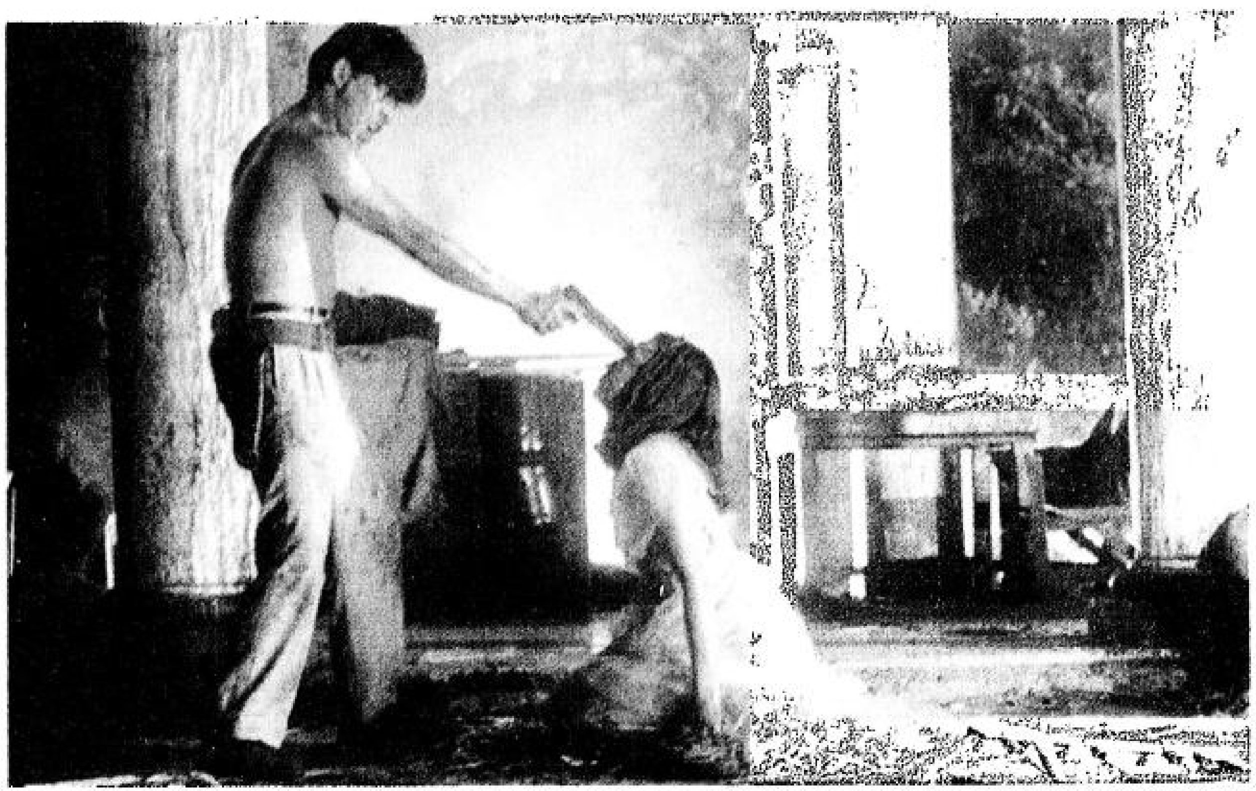
JOEL Torre and Kuh Ledesma in the penultimate scene of "Oro, Plata, Mata." Much of the confusion about Ledesma's enigmatic character was caused by the movie's evisceration from its original six hours to the commercial version's three hours, Gallaga says.

'Oro, Plata, Mata' redux

By Lito B. Zulueta

IS PEQUE Gallaga's "Oro, Plata, Mata" the Philippines' "Apocalypse Now"? Both movies caustically but movingly depict the loss of national innocence and the collapse of the social order amid the thunder of conflict and the flare-up of violence.

Both movies are epic in length and breadth: the redux version of the Francis Ford Coppola classic has added 15 minutes of new footage to the original, and the three-hour "OPM," if it chooses to extend its running time, can just as well restore its original six-hour length.

"Apocalypse Now Redux" followed the original movie's 20th anniversary in 1997. Now, through FLIP Magazine's Movie Club, "OPM" will be shown on Jan. 30, 6 p.m. at Greenbelt 3 to mark the classic's 20th anniversary. "It's not everyday that we come together to toast a Filipino movie," said FLIP publisher and editor Jessica Zafra. "But OPM is clearly one film that deserves to be commemorated. It raised the standards for Filipino films and, 20 years later, the public and the industry still look to the movie for guidance and inspiration."

The movie followed the fortunes of two affluent sugar clans in Negros through the Second World War. Produced by the defunct Experimental Cinema of the Philippines (ECP) headed by Imee Marcos and made at the then staggering cost of P2.5 million, it won the Special Jury Prize at the 1983 Manila International Film Festival and was voted as one of the 10 best films of the 1980s by the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino.

"OPM" was by no means Gallaga's first movie (it was really his second, after "Binhi" which he calls pretentious and "beautifully lost"). But it established the director as some sort of an enfant terrible—some sort of a mestizo Celso Ad Castillo whose "Burlesk Queen" is Gallaga's personal favorite. It showed his talent at creating the feel of a milieu through art direction, production design, and overall mastery of movie language and technology.

A former production designer himself, Gallaga orchestrated a crew that consisted of Salvador Escudero and Rodell Cruz as production designers (Escudero would later on become a director himself), Rody Lacap as cinematographer, Jose Gentica as music scorer, Jess Navarro as editor and Ramon Reyes as soundman. In the 1983 Gawad Urian, the movie swept the best picture and all of the technical awards against the tough competition posed by another masterpiece, Mike de Leon's "Batch '81."

But perhaps the most noted artists to have come from Gallaga's virtuoso ensemble were screenplay writer Jose Javier Reyes and actor Joel Torre. It was Reyes who shared the screenplay credit with Gallaga, whose original concept, story and script for the movie had earlier won the ECP Scriptwriting Contest. Long known as "The Jungle Story," in reference to the movie's portrayal of the protracted wanderings of its two aristocratic families in the jungles of Negros during the war, the movie was christened "Oro, Plata, Mata" by Reyes in one moment of sublime inspiration. The title is clearly one of the more memorable in Philippine cinema-along with "Tinimbang' Ka Nguni't Kulang" and "Maynila sa mga Kuko ng Liwanag," Gallaga's personal Lino Brocka favorites.

Since "OPM," Torre has gone on to become one of Philippine cinema's most powerful and resilient actors. Perhaps as a tribute to the protracted length of "OPM," he teamed up with young Turk Lav Diaz in 2000 and made the five-hour "Batang Westside." It won for him the best actor in the Gawad Urian and the Brussels International Film Festival last year.

Milestone

When "OPM" was shown in the 1982 Manila International Film Festival, it was clearly seen as a milestone in Philippine cinema. Why it became so nobody could exactly put a finger to. The readiest answer was that it was a movie of epic proportions that delved into one of the most sensitive and seminal periods of Philippine history—the Second World War and the terrible suffering it caused a nation just barely coming together.

The subject it chose to tackle was original and even brazen. Much like the Jews and the Holocaust, Filipinos had seemed less than forthcoming about the war. The dreadful silence betrayed the

ORO/ E3

Peque Gallaga's epic marks its 20th anniversary with a special screening at Greenbelt on Jan. 30

British Cultural Festival

Story on page E3

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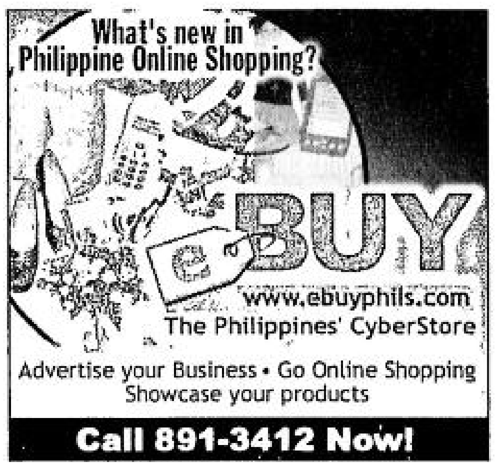
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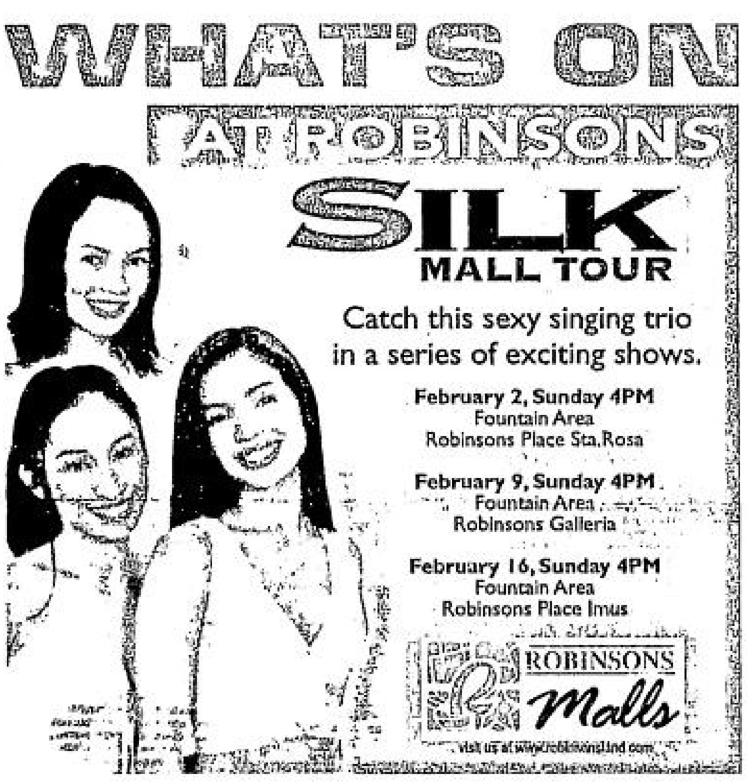
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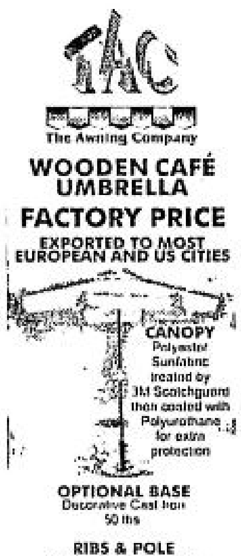
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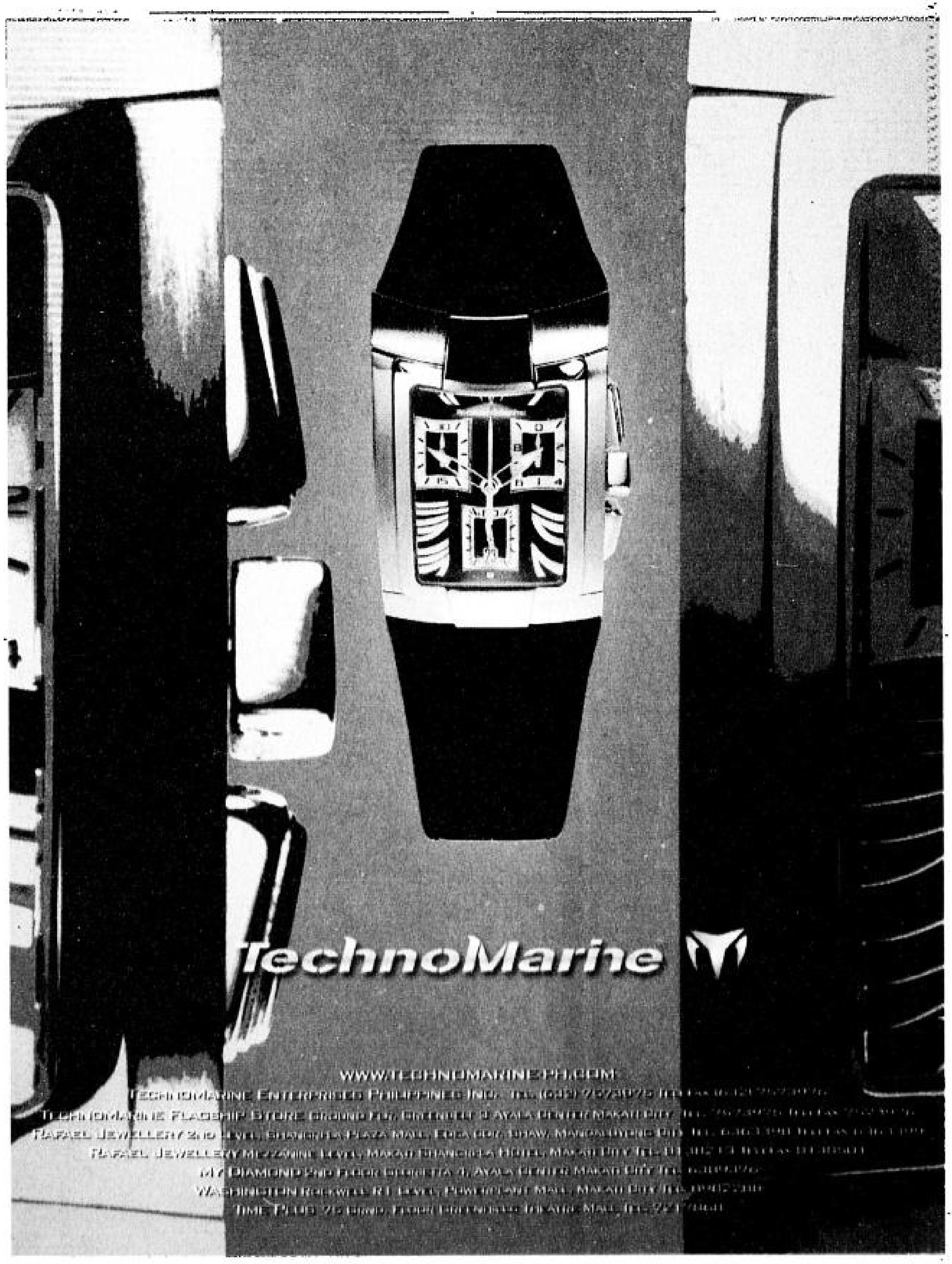
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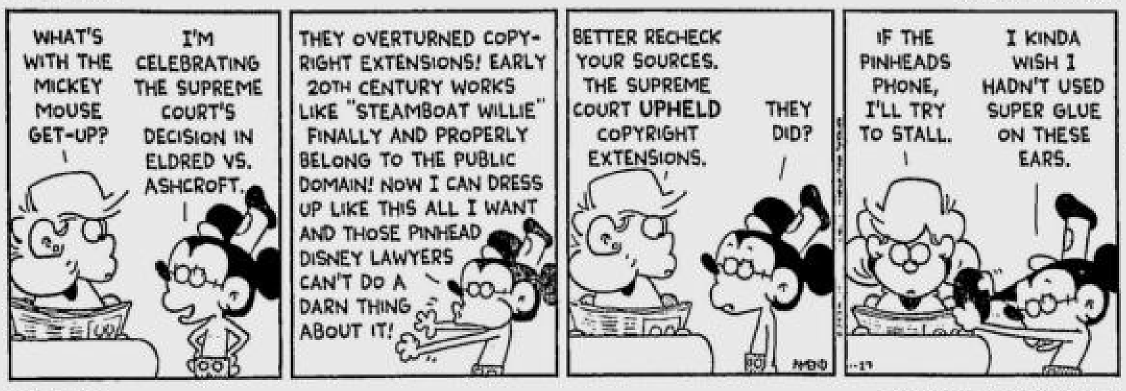
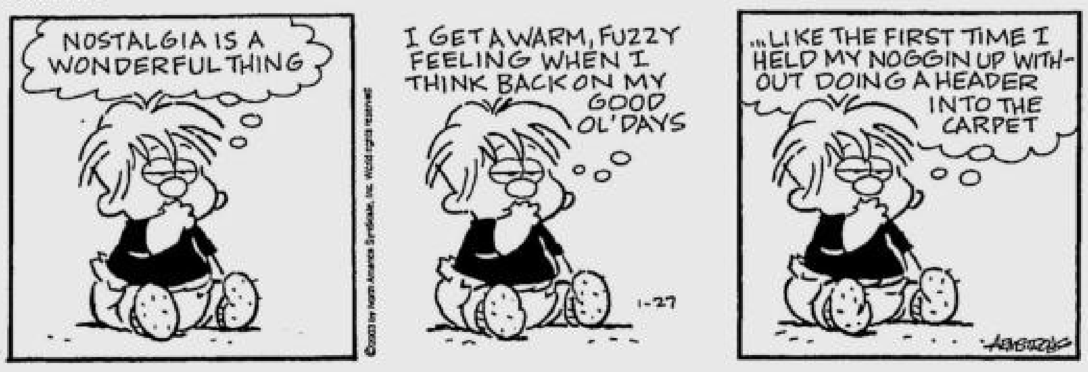
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT'S WITH THE MICKEY MOUSE GET-UP?
I'M CELEBRATING THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION IN ELDRED VS. ASHCROFT.
THEY OVERTURNED COPYRIGHT EXTENSIONS! EARLY 20TH CENTURY WORKS LIKE "STEAMBOAT WILLIE" FINALLY AND PROPERLY BELONG TO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN! NOW I CAN DRESS UP LIKE THIS ALL I WANT AND THOSE PINHEAD DISNEY LAWYERS CAN'T DO A DARN THING ABOUT IT!
BETTER RECHECK YOUR SOURCES. THE SUPREME COURT UPHELD COPYRIGHT EXTENSIONS.
THEY DID?
IF THE PINHEADS PHONE, I'LL TRY TO STALL.
I KINDA WISH I HADN'T USED SUPER GLUE ON THESE EARS.

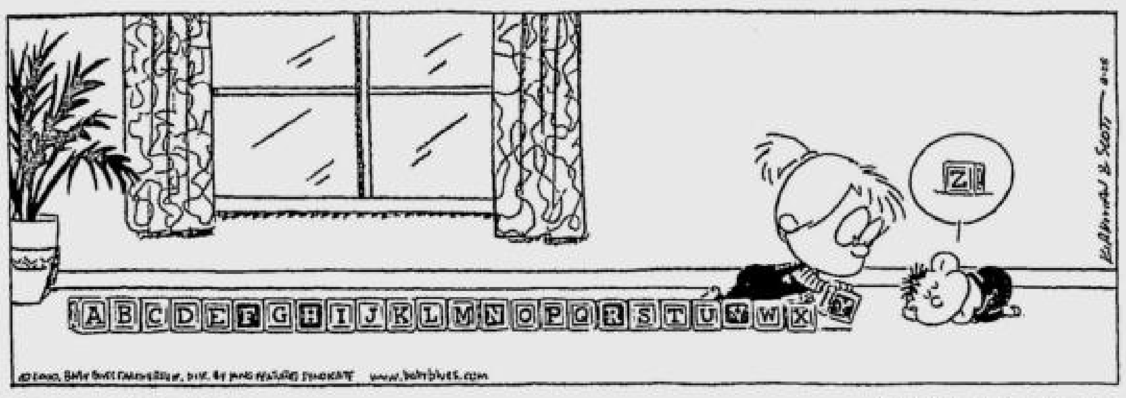
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


NOSTALGIA IS A WONDERFUL THING
I GET A WARM, FUZZY FEELING WHEN I THINK BACK ON MY GOOD OL' DAYS
...LIKE THE FIRST TIME I HELD MY NOGGIN UP WITHOUT DOING A HEADER INTO THE CARPET
1-27

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT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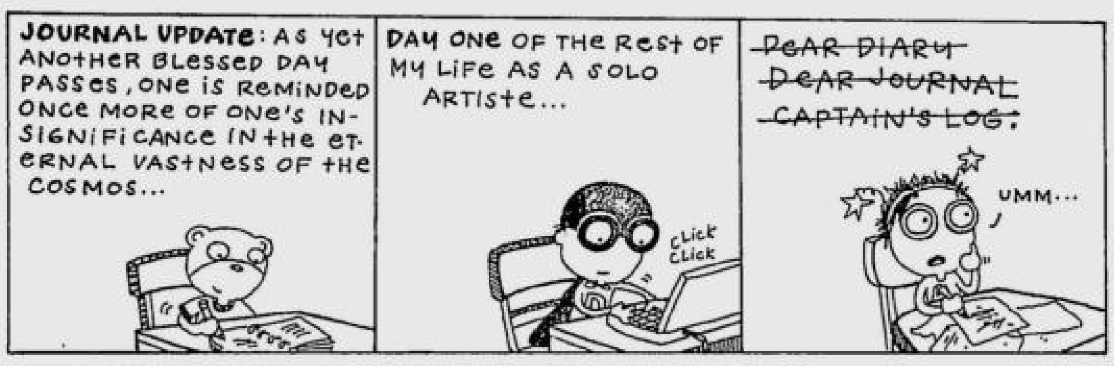
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


JOURNAL UPDATE: AS yet ANOTHER BLESSED DAY PASSES, ONE IS REMINDED ONCE MORE OF ONE'S INSIGNIFICANCE IN THE ETERNAL VASTNESS OF THE COSMOS...
DAY ONE OF THE REST OF MY LIFE AS A SOLO ARTISTE...
CLICK CLICK
~~DEAR DIARY~~
~~DEAR JOURNAL~~
~~CAPTAIN'S LOG:~~
UMM...

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mimi Rogers, Bridget Fonda, Tracy Lawrence, Jerome Kern

Happy Birthday: It's time to take a chance and follow your dreams. Your persuasive manner will help you to drum up the support you need to further your goals. Follow your instincts and you will find success. Your numbers are 2, 24, 28, 31, 36, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your ability to see all sides of an issue will be helpful. Don't hesitate to voice your opinion; however, be sure that you aren't being pushy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make pleasing changes to your living quarters. You may have to help older relatives with their financial concerns or personal papers.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Educational courses will turn into a form of entertainment for you. You will meet a potential new mate while attending lectures.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't go off on a spending spree. Be cautious and make price comparisons. Your emotional partner will give you a hard time if you have been too busy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Include the whole family when making decisions about your home. Don't make assumptions about what anyone else thinks. Clear up misconceptions by communicating.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's time to do a major cleaning of your house and all of your personal papers. Check all your policies and financial documents; you may want to get some legal advice.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your gift for seeing both sides of any situation will help you keep the peace. Although you will enjoy being appreciated, don't take on too much.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your creative way of communicating will help keep you out of trouble. Your lover will be more than receptive if you say the right thing. Think carefully before you speak.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Direct your energy into competitive sports events, socializing with friends, or improving your residence. Include family members in whatever you do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's time for you to get out there and socialize. Romantic involvement will develop through new friendships. Contribute your knowledge.

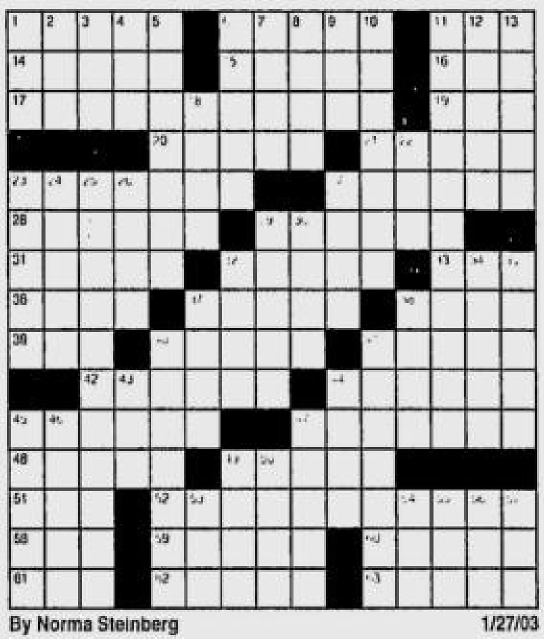
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your desire for freedom and travel may cause more of a dilemma than you anticipated. Make sure all your documents are in order. Difficulties in foreign countries and with authority figures will surface.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will face emotional discord if you have neglected your personal responsibilities. Don't take on other people's problems and, whatever you do, avoid gossip.

Birthday Baby: You will be playful, adventuresome and always ready to try something new. You will have a good head on your shoulders and will be an action person rather than an onlooker.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Visual aid
6 Lost color
11 Ready-go separator
14 Exterior
15 Accustom
16 Play about Capote
17 John Wayne movie
19 Charged particle
20 Temporary currency
21 Spanish diacritical mark
23 Cultural values
27 "For the Boys" star
28 Decanted
29 Vacillate
31 Double curves
32 Photosynthetic organism
33 Tavern brew
36 Return caller?
37 Fairway makeup
38 Cornelia __ Skinner
39 Gullible dupe
40 "Home __"
41 Small songbirds
42 Turmoil
44 Use a credit card
45 __ State Building
47 "__ de Roland"
48 Syrup source
49 Fold
51 __ Wan Kenobi
52 Christmastide standard
58 Driving spot
59 Diller or Lott
60 Held the title to
61 Raised railways
62 Does ushering
63 Sightseeing excursions

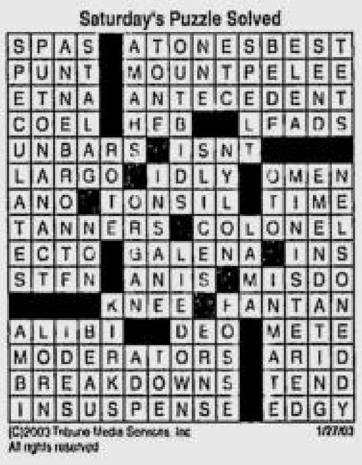


By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

1/27/03

DOWN
1 Portable bed
2 Eh?
3 Had dinner
4 Supply slip, in brief
5 Supporting pieces
6 Boardwalk extensions
7 Pro's opponent
8 Sugar cube
9 Time period
10 DDS holder
11 Stagnant spots in streams
12 Eat away at
13 Piano adjuster
18 Frosted
22 Actress Lupino
23 Fencing swords
24 Puccini opera
25 Southern cornbread creations
26 Sandwich cookie
27 Part of YMCA
29 Point of view
30 Relaxed state
32 Good points
34 Vernacular
35 Ruhr Valley city
37 Frivolity
38 Algerian port
40 Collars
41 Unspecified object
43 Zilch
44 Shoot the breeze
45 Overact
46 Silents actress Normand
47 Nickel parts
49 Entreaty
50 Season of sacrifice
53 Dander
54 "Sands of __ Jima"
55 Wildebeest
56 That girl
57 6-pointers

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



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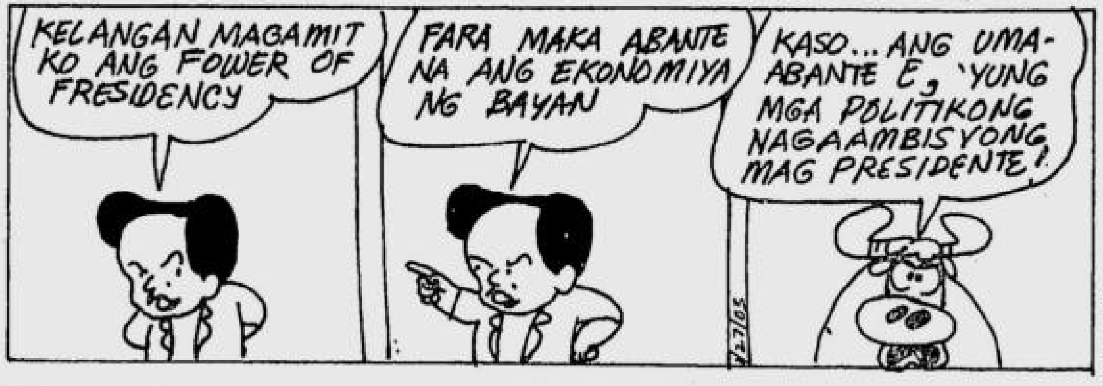
1/27/03

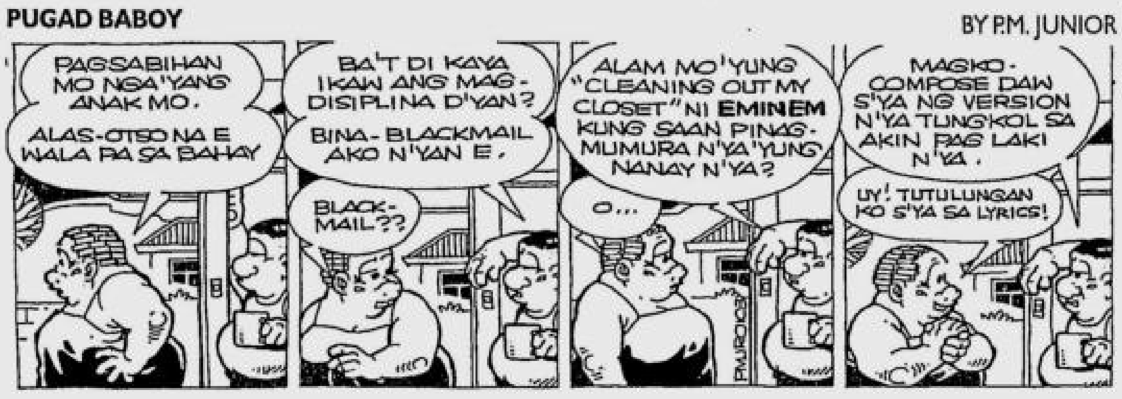
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN MAGAMIT KO ANG FOWER OF FRESIDENCY
FARA MAKA ABANTE NA ANG EKONOMIYA NG BAYAN
KASO... ANG UMA-ABANTE E, 'YUNG MGA POLITIKONG NAGAAMBISYONG MAG PRESIDENTE!
1/27/03

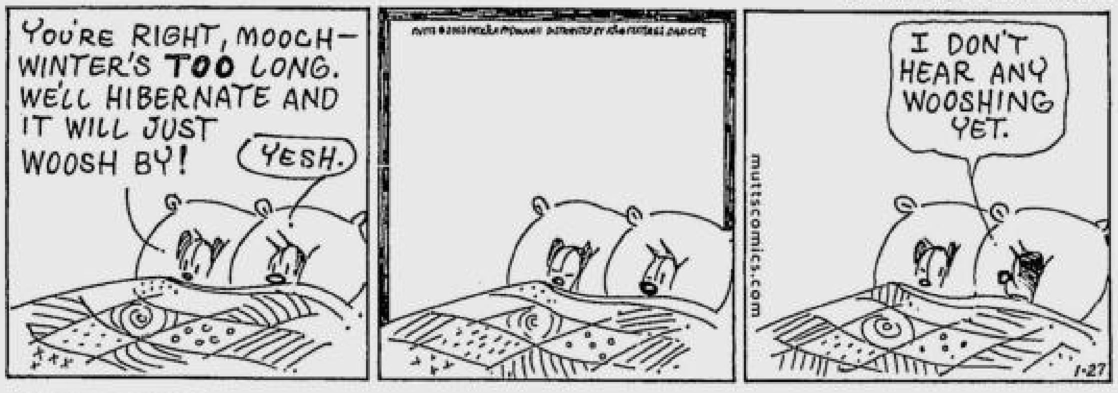
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAGSABIHAN MO NGA 'YANG ANAK MO.
ALAS-OTSO NA E WALA PA SA BAHAY
BA'T DI KAYA IKAW ANG MAG-DISIPLINA D'YAN?
BINA-BLACKMAIL AKO N'YAN E.
BLACK-MAIL??
ALAM MO 'YUNG "CLEANING OUT MY CLOSET" NI EMINEM KUNG SAAN PINAG-MUMURA N'YA 'YUNG NANAY N'YA?
O...
MAGKO-COMPOSE DAW S'YA NG VERSION N'YA TUNGKOL SA AKIN PAG LAKI N'YA.
UY! TUTULUNGAN KO S'YA SA LYRICS!
PMJUNIOR

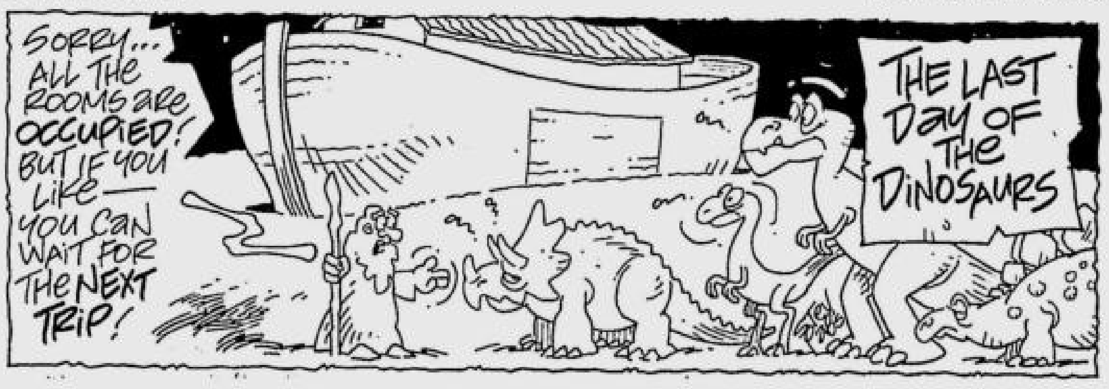
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YOU'RE RIGHT, MOOCH—WINTER'S TOO LONG. WE'LL HIBERNATE AND IT WILL JUST WOOSH BY!
YESH.
I DON'T HEAR ANY WOOSHING YET.
muttscomics.com
1-27

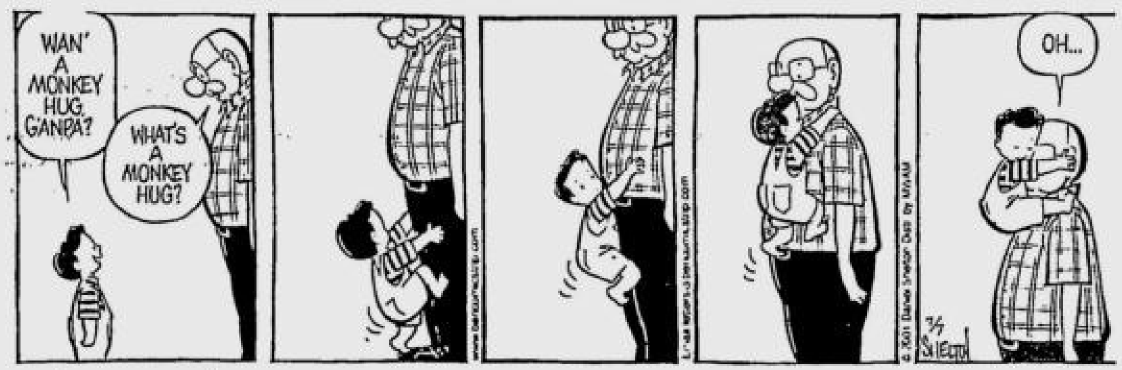
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SORRY... ALL THE ROOMS ARE OCCUPIED! BUT IF YOU LIKE— YOU CAN WAIT FOR THE NEXT TRIP!
THE LAST DAY OF THE DINOSAURS

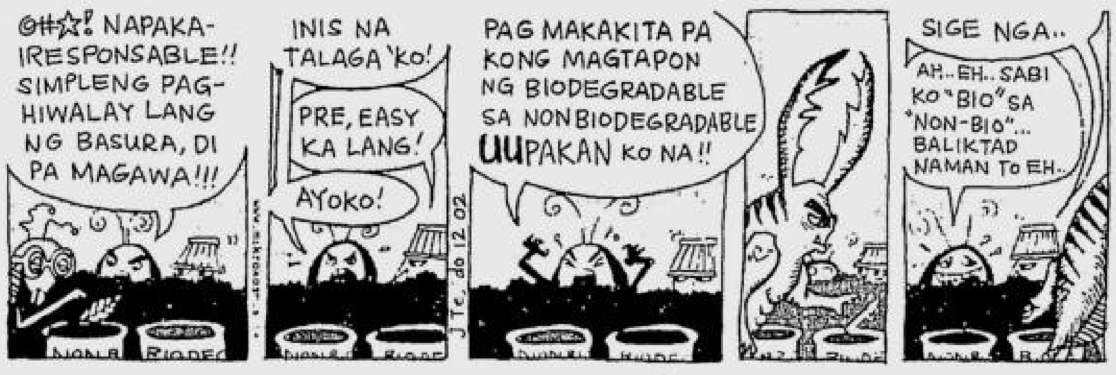
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAN' A MONKEY HUG, GANPA?
WHAT'S A MONKEY HUG?
OH...
SHELTON

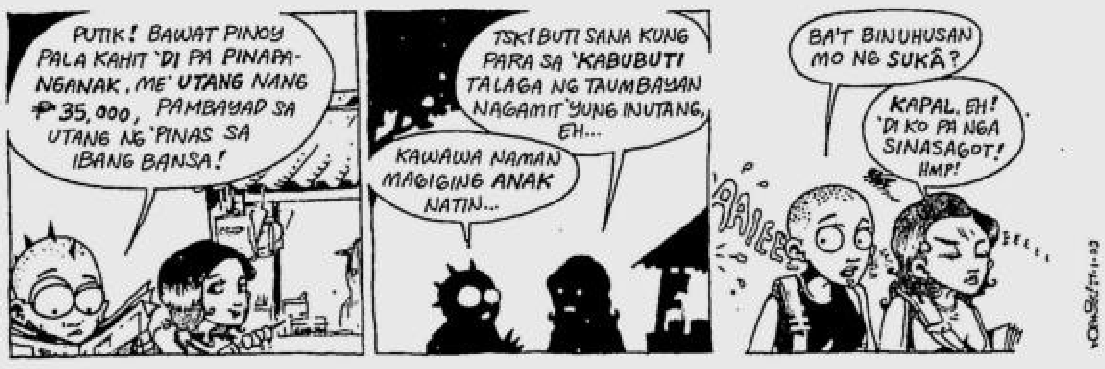
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


@#☆! NAPAKA-IRESPONSABLE!! SIMPLENG PAG-HIWALAY LANG NG BASURA, DI PA MAGAWA!!!
INIS NA TALAGA 'KO!
PRE, EASY KA LANG!
AYOKO!
PAG MAKAKITA PA KONG MAGTAPON NG BIODEGRADABLE SA NONBIODEGRADABLE UUPAKAN KO NA!!
SIGE NGA..
AH.. EH.. SABI KO "BIO" SA "NON-BIO"... BALIKTAD NAMAN TO EH..
JTe, do 12 02

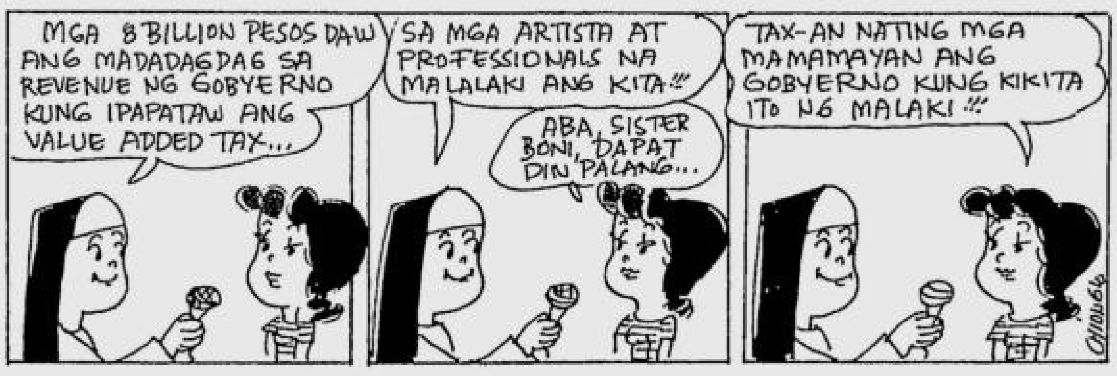
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PUTIK! BAWAT PINOY PALA KAHIT 'DI PA PINAPANGANAK, ME' UTANG NANG ₱35,000, PAMBAYAD SA UTANG NG 'PINAS SA IBANG BANSA!
TSK! BUTI SANA KUNG PARA SA 'KABUBUTI TALAGA NG TAUMBAYAN NAGAMIT 'YUNG INUTANG, EH...
KAWAWA NAMAN MAGIGING ANAK NATIN...
BA'T BINUHUSAN MO NG SUKÂ?
KAPAL, EH! 'DI KO PA NGA SINASAGOT! HMP!
AAIEEE

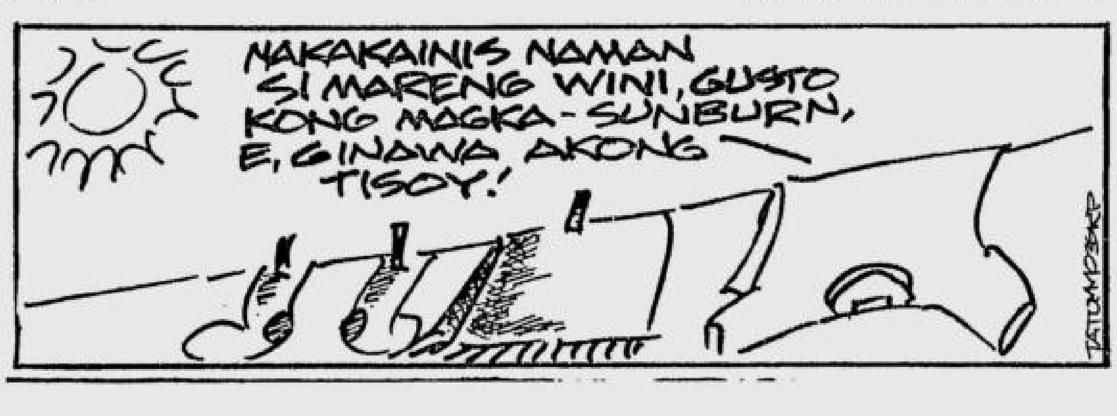
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MGA 8 BILLION PESOS DAW ANG MADADAGDAG SA REVENUE NG GOBYERNO KUNG IPAPATAW ANG VALUE ADDED TAX...
SA MGA ARTISTA AT PROFESSIONALS NA MALALAKI ANG KITA!!!
ABA, SISTER BONI, DAPAT DIN PALANG...
TAX-AN NATING MGA MAMAMAYAN ANG GOBYERNO KUNG KIKITA ITO NG MALAKI!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NAKAKAINIS NAMAN SI MARENG WINI, GUSTO KONG MAGKA-SUNBURN, E, GINAWA AKONG TISOY!
TATUM

BRITISH educational software like "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" is on exhibit.

Hala bira, Britannia!

Two weeks of UK cultural fare may yet improve Pinoy taste for things British beyond the Beatles and James Bond

WILL a fortnight of British culture put a finger on what makes British arts and design tick? Alas, no. In a rapidly globalizing world, even British culture, supposedly stiff and immovable, will appear an incomprehensible mélange of influences and counter-influences.

Which is just as well for the pastiche-loving, collage-crazy Pinoys. Any opportunity to plumb the British depths beyond the clichés of the Beatles and James Bond is welcome.

It helps that for this year's edition of the British Cultural Festival, which opens today and runs until Feb. 9, the British Council has reversed gear and cozied up to the Philippines by dubbing the fortnight in true Pinoy *kantoboy* fashion as "Basta UK, Iba!" The colonialist conceit may still be there, but the attempt at breezy informality and friendly familiarity is refreshing.

With the British Embassy and the British Chamber of Commerce, British Council director Gill Westaway promises two weeks of cross-cultural exchanges in design, the performing arts, letters, food, education and other fields.

The festival opens today at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel ballroom not only with a cross-cultural fare, but also a multimedia and interdisciplinary presentation. "Through the Looking Glass," which coincides with the birth anniversary of British author Lewis Carroll, is a theatrical presentation of fashion, hairstyle and dance. It features the designs of Rajo Laurel, Patrice Ramos-Diaz and Mich Dulce, all graduates of the Experimental Fashion course at Central St. Martins. It also features the works of Smirnoff International Design Competition winner Ignacio Loyola and Hair Asia Salon Spectacular champion Willy de la Vega, who are both leaving for London this year on a scholarship.

There will also be a specially curated exhibition of designs by Lesley Mobo, who created a stir at the recent Graduate Fashion Week for his avant-garde works at Central St. Martins. Roselyn Perez, a British Gas grantee from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, ushers in the presentation, which will be directed by Robby Carmona, with special choreography by Laban Centre alumnus Paul Morales, hairstyling by David's Salons and laser effects by Tim Bennett of Argon Animation.

BRITISH Council Manila director Gill Westaway promises a cross-cultural and colorful British Cultural Festival.

The UK Film Festival unreels at Cinema 2 of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall on Jan. 29. "Bend It Like Beckham," a film about two 18-year-old girls who dream of playing professional football ala Dave Beckham, tops this year's line-up of cinematic gems co-presented by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Other titles are "Born Romantic," "Divorcing Jack, " "Last Resort," and "Love and Death in Long Island. " From Feb. 5-8, the British Council Information Centre will screen television materials from the BBC. These include "Absolutely Fabulous" (comedy), "Pride and Prejudice" (classical drama), "Wallace and Grommit" (animation) and "Walking with Dinosaurs" (documentary).

British celebrity chefs and their creations, combined with the UK's multicultural influences which have taken food from the UK to a new level of appreciation, will be highlighted by the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel from Jan. 31-Feb. 6 when its Garden Café features British cooking in a special culinary showcase. Philippine-based British chef Philip John Golding, vice president of the Center for Culinary Arts and the brains behind Azzurro Bistro, will conduct a cooking demonstration at the Manila Peninsula Hotel on Feb. 1.

The British Council will feature two very talented writers in literary public readings at Eastwood City Walk (Feb. 1), Remedios Circle (Feb. 7) and Shangri-La Plaza Mall (Feb. 8). Mumbai-born Atima Srivastava, Britport Arts Short Story Competition winner, and Chinese-born novelist Hong Ying, team up in a showcase of literary works anchored on women seeking love and success in life. Joining them will be some of the country's foremost writers.

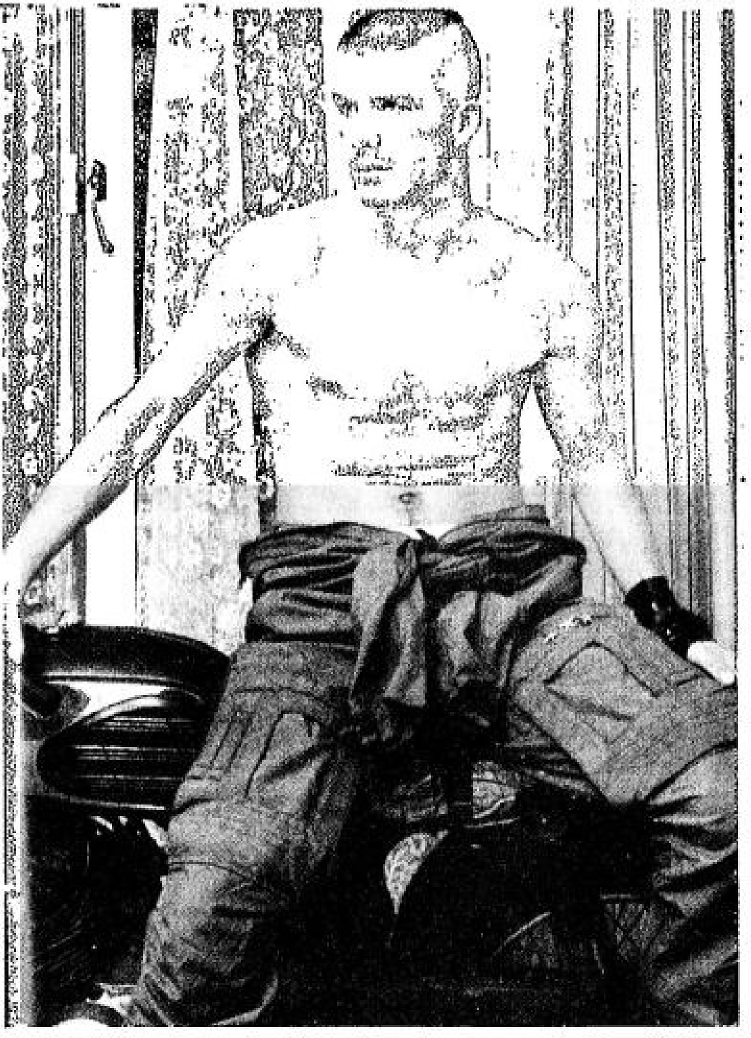
The British Embassy honors its Chevening scholars on Feb. 7. The scholarship program gives future leaders, decision-makers and opinion-formers the opportunity to get a UK education.

The British Council has invited several UK universities to present their undergraduate and postgraduate course offerings in a two-day Education Fair at the Manila Peninsula.

Consular officers from the Embassy will also be around to provide advise on visa requirements, while various alumni will discuss living conditions in Britain.

Attendees can sample various educational software developed and published in the UK. Among these are "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" along with "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers."

Lito B. Zulueta



FOOTBALL superstar David Beckham does not star in "Bend It Like Beckham," which will be shown in the UK Film Festival at the Shangri-La Plaza, but he is the movie's moving spirit.

'Oro, Plata, Mata' redux

From page E1

war's trauma. To many who lived through it, it was the Fall.

It was to his credit that Gallaga charted the Fall in terms that were immediate and compelling. In situating the war in the feudal splendor of Negros, he presented its impact in social and psychological terms. He showed how the war's fury exposed the canker hidden beneath the affluence of the Negros elite, hastening the collapse of an order that was merely waiting for a crisis to fall apart.

Since he was charting the Fall, Gallaga must also depict Eden. Some of the movie's more charming scenes portrayed the feudal paradise in terms that are funny and trenchant, particularly the endless mahjong sessions that the Negros elite hold as if they had been born to do just that all their lives.

Side by side with these scenes of feudal languor and sly social comedy were the gripping scenes of suspense, particularly the family's bewildering flight as the Japanese entered Negros: the patriarch played by Manny Ojeda using his cane to overturn a vase to shock the topsy-turvy household into silence and order so that he could instruct them to bring only the valuables and not to panic; the stark silhouette of the carabao-drawn caravan of the families as it flees while the torched sugar hacienda flares in the background; and the families' rabidly violent encounters with the *tulisanes* in the forest.

In the end, so exhausted by war's machinations and cruelty, the families reestablish themselves but without the grace and innocence of old. Everything has been changed irreversibly. The old order has been destroyed and however hard the families try, they cannot anymore reconstitute themselves from the debris of their own physical, emotional and psychological disintegration.

Dissolution

The history of "OPM" since 1983 has similarly suffered a dissolution of sorts.

After the revolution of 1986, the ECP, like any Marcosian creation, was sequestered and its assets came under the protection and disposition of the Asset Privatization Trust (APT).

Gallaga found it hard to shake off the association with ECP and the Marcoses even if he hadn't exactly been a friend of the conjugal dictatorship or a recipient of its largesse. In a press conference last Thursday, he said he had never even seen Imee Marcos throughout the filming of "OPM." He explained Imee Marcos put the P10 million assistance fund to finance the ECP-winning scripts in a bank and let her lieutenants raise the money for "OPM." Charo Santos Concio acted as producer. "Imee was never involved," Gallaga said.

Escudero explained that the P2.5 million budget of "OPM" was misleading. "We got a lot of freebies that did not register in the final accounting," he said. In more ways than one, the production haggled for arrangements to deliver the film in time for the Manila festival.

After 1986, APT auctioned off "OPM" and Gallaga almost always won the bidding. But the price was too small and APT had to declare a failure of bidding several times.

It was only recently that the APT finally sold the movie to Star Cinema. In another instance of how the movie's portrayal of class divisions may have prefigured the personal estrangement of its makers in real life, Gallaga said he asked Charo Santos Concio, now the head of Star, about the sale. But she denied it.

To his consternation later, ABS-CBN showed the movie in one of its cable channels later despite his offer to remaster the movie using his own money. "*Galit ako*," he said. "*Sobra na talagang bastusan.*"

But the animosity will have to simmer down at the moment as "OPM" gets its 20th anniversary screening and its makers congratulate themselves for having made a movie that has withstood the wear and tear of time.

Gallaga himself is excited about the screening. Asked what has made the movie last this long, he said, "'Oro, Plata, Mata' is in the details... Now I wonder why I didn't pay as much attention to my other films."

GALLAGA contemplates a scene during "Oro" filming.

REUNION. (Seated from left) "Oro" writer Jose Javier Reyes, production designer Don Escudero and Gallaga with Cristy Torre. Behind them are FLIP executive editor Roby Alampay, Uro de la Cruz (whose brother Abbo appeared in the film), FLIP publisher-editor Jessica Zafra, Fernando Aracama (chef and patron of Uva restaurant, which hosted the reunion) and Torre.

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Heny Sison

1 Week ITALIAN CULINARY ADVENTURE
w/ sidetrip to Switzerland (Sept. 2003)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

February 3,4,5,10 & 11 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. P5,000 GUM PASTE FLOWER MAKING by: Heny Sison, "A unique method of making gum paste flowers using a foam pad, a pair of scissors and cutters. The course covers the Rose, Carnation, Stephanotis, Tulips, Filler Flowers, Cattleya, Christmas Holly, Poinsettia, Daisy, Tiger Lily and quick leaves. Learn how to use airbrush and edible petal dust to color the flowers and bunch them into a bouquet. Full participation.

February 3,4,5,10 & 11 1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. P8,500 ADVANCED CAKE DECORATION by: Heny Sison, "This course covers baking of fruitcake, covering the baked fruitcake with marzipan then with rolled fondant. Learn South African and Australian method using delicate icing wings, curtainings, ribbon insertion done on rolled fondant cake. Bonus: how to make bows, swags, quilting, cut-outs and chocolate rolled fondant. Master in Cake Decoration Basic is a pre-requisite in the class. Full participation.

February 12 (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. P1,500 BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison, "Butter with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing

February 12 (Wednesday) 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. P1,700 JAPANESE RICE TOPPINGS by: Chef Koichi Kondo, licensed cook from Ehime, Japan and food consultant to various Japanese restaurants. "Oyako-don (Chicken and Egg on Rice), Gyudon (Beef Bowl), Ten-don (Tempura Bowl), Katsu-don (Pork Cutlet Bowl), Soboro-don (Minced Chicken and Egg Bowl), Tori Teriyaki-don (Chicken Teriyaki) plus bonus recipe CHAHAN (Japanese Fried Rice).

February 17 (Monday) 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. P2,500 PIE WORKSHOP by: Jill Sandique, "This course covers pie doughs and fillings, including streusel topped fruit pies, meringue pies and baked custard pies. Pie Doughs: Pâte Brisee, Pâte Sucree, Pâte Sablee. Recipes: Banana Walnut Tart, Lemon Meringue Tartlets, Chocolate Banana Cream Pie, Apple Custard Tart (Tarte a la Normande), Blueberry Pie with Crumb Topping, Chocolate Walnut Pie plus bonus recipe

February 18 (Tuesday) 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. P2,500 HOMEMADE SAUSAGES, CONDIMENTS & MARINADE WORKSHOP by: Jane Paredes " Food Consultant, co-owner of Cafe Cornucopia, trained at the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park New York and Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. "Discover ways to tranform meat, poultry and seafood into profitable menu items
SAUSAGES: Chorizo Bilbao, Longaniza Ilongga, Italian Sausage, Seafood Sausage and Mexican Sausage
CONDIMENTS: Honey-Mustard Sauce, Sweet Pickles and Atchara
MARINADE: Homemade Tapa, Homemade Bulgogi & Tocino
DISH: Sausage, Sauerkraut & Potato Casserole and Country Style Pork & Beans.

February 19 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. P2,500 FRESH PASTA by: Chef Giorgio Buccierelli, Master Pizzaiolo, Barista and Food Consultant of various Italian restaurants all over Metro Manila, graduated at Culinary Institute, Milan Italy "In this class you will learn the history, concept and design of pizza making. Learn how to make pizza dough, tomato sauce base, white sauce base, preparation, know the ingredients and toppings and setting up a pizza counter. Recipes: Margherita, Napoli Classica, 4 Formaggi Pizza Vegetariana, La Gitana, Piccantina, 4 Stagioni, Calzone & Frutti di Mare. Demonstration with student participation.

February 24 (Monday) 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. P2,500 SIOPAO & MAMI WORKSHOP by: Katherine Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat), caterer and an expert in Chinese Cuisine "Siopao: Bola-bola, Asado and Special; Roast Chinese Barbeque Chicken and Beef Mami.

February 25 (Tuesday) 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. P1,500 INDIAN COOKING CLASS by: Saba Saxena, instructor of Indian Cooking Class at Asahi Cultural Center, Ashiya Japan and at Indian Home Kitchen. Student will learn the ingredients and cooking techniques unique to India. "Chicken Roll (a roll stuffed with mixture of chicken and Indian spices a unique snack), Vegetable Curry (traditional curry with assorted vegetables in a tomato puree), Chana Masala (A dried preparation of grams/chick peas, Bhatura (Deep fried round shaped Naan made up of soft flour perfect with Chana Masala), Mango Lassi (a refreshing mango and yogurt drink in traditional Indian style)

February 26 (Wednesday) 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. P1,700 BASIC TECHNIQUES OF COOKING by: Jill Sandique, "For beginners and for those who want to go back to the basics this crash course is the first step to start. This course works for cooks at every level of skill and aspiration that will make you approach any cooking task or cuisine with confidence and pleasure. Recipes: Stuffed Mushrooms, Mussels Steamed in White Wine, Braised Pork Loin with Prunes and Cream Sauce, Sauce Vinaigrette and its variations, Pommes de Terre, Miette en Persillade, Orange with Grand Marnier

February 26 (Wednesday) 2:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. P1,700 THE MANY WAYS TO COOK CHICKEN by: Chef Aileen Anastacio, owner of C'est Si Bon and Goodies and Sweets. Dean's list graduate of Culinary at the California Culinary Academy. "Citrus-Ginger Grilled Chicken, Chicken Cacciatore, Chicken Inasal, Thai Style Grilled Chicken, Roasted Chicken with Lemon, Garlic and Rosemary, Buffalo Wings and Chicken Bulgogi

HENY SISON AT JULIUS MAGGI KITCHEN
Nestle Building, 31 Plaza Drive,
Rockwell Center Makati

February 6 (Thursday) 9:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. P1,700 PARADE OF PIES, TARTS & CHEESECAKES "French Apple Pie with Streusel Topping and Creme Anglaise Sauce, Turtle Pie, Banana Cream Pie with Whipped Cream and Caramel Topping, Mango art, peach Walnut Pie, Blueberry Cheesecake and White Chocolate Cheesecake

February 26 (Wednesday) 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. P1,500 THE ART OF SANDWICH MAKING "Grilled Chicken with Pancetta, Arugula and Aioli, Portobello Mushroom and Goat Cheese Panini, Beef Burger Stacks, Grilled Salmon B.L.T., Eggplant and Prosciutto Panini, Vegetarian (Grilled Eggplant, Zucchini, Mushroom, Red Pepper, Onion and Basil Pesto), Tomato, Basil, Ricotta Cheese Sandwich with Tapenade

Reservation / Enrollment for ESSENTIAL COOKING SERIES (20 DAY) and ESSENTIAL BAKING & PASTRY SERIES (26 DAY) for April 2003 is now open.

HENY SISON WILL BE HAVING FREE BAKING & CAKE DECORATING SEMINAR on February 28, 2003 for PENCO and March 1, 2003 for (FERNA), 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Bakery Fair 2003, WORLD TRADE CENTER, ROXAS BLVD.

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UST Singers stage homecoming concert on Feb. 2

THE INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed University of Santo Tomas (UST) Singers will hold their homecoming concert on Feb. 2 at the Philamlife Auditorium.

The group returned to the country last Dec. 28 after more than eight months of world touring that saw them reap the top prizes in several choral contests in Europe.

Led by choral conductor Prof. Fidel Calalang of the UST Conservatory of Music, the UST Singers had toured last year 12 European countries and 11 states in Northern America.

In Europe, the UST Singers received the top prizes in the Tonen 2002 International Contest for Chamber Choirs in Monster, the Netherlands.

The choir won the Best Festival Choir 2002 and the first prizes in the sacred, secular and folklore categories.

Calalang, meanwhile, was awarded the Conductor's Prize.

Before the Dutch festival, the UST Singers also claimed top prizes at the 4th Internationaler Chorwettbewerb 2002 in Mittenberg, Germany; the 41st Concorso Internazionale di Canto Corale "C.A. Seghizzi" 2002 in Italy; and the 30th Mezinarodni Festival "Mundi Cantant" Peveckych Sboru in the Czech Republic.

The UST Singers won five first prizes in the Czech choral festival; two first prizes, two *premios del pubblico* (audience choice) and two jury prizes in the Italian contest; and the Bayerischer Loewe (best choir prize) in the German competition.

Also in Berlin, the UST Singers held a "Te Deum" performance at the St. Johannes Basilika that was attended by 600 Berliners from the city and even from Hamburg and Hannover.

The guest of honor was Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, papal nuncio and dean of the diplomatic corps.

Some of Berlin's finest choirs, such as the Chor Johannes Kirche, Sing-Akademie Berlin and the Gemischter Chor de Polizei, witnessed the performance.

From Berlin, the group proceeded to Hamburg for another performance at the International Baptist Church.

In their tour, the UST Singers sang a repertoire covering the significant parts of the choral literature of the last five centuries. The repertoire included madrigals, spirituals and some Filipino songs like "Waray-waray" and "Galawgaw."

A decade of performing and competing in key cities worldwide has brought laurels to the UST Singers, their alma mater and the Philippines. In 1995, it was named the "Choir of the World" during the International Music Eisteddfodd Festival in North Wales, United Kingdom.

UST SINGERS: Choir of the World

In 1998, the UST Singers garnered two first prizes and the Prix du Public at the 27th Florilege Vocal de Tours in Tours, France. It also won the 1998 Gran Premio "Citta di Gorizia" with four first prizes at the 37th Concorso Internazionale di Canto Corale "C.A. Seghizzi" in Gorizia, Italy, where they bested 21 international entries.

In 2001, the UST Singers went on a Pacific concert tour of Hawaii and California. They also represented the Philippines in the non-competitive World Choral Festival in Puebla, Mexico, where they were named the Festival Choir after an audience survey.

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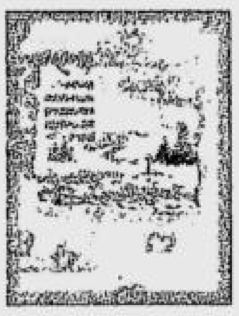
Valentine's greeting cards



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Violin prodigy in concert

FOURTEEN-year-old violin prodigy Regina Buenaventura will hold "On Wings of Song," a concert with the Manila Symphony Orchestra and pianist Najib Ismael, on Jan. 29 and 31 at the CCP Little Theater.

Buenaventura's talent caught the attention of Hungarian scientist and violin maker Joseph Nagyvary, who granted her the Nagvarius, one of the violins he crafted to sound exactly like the renowned Stradivarius violin.

Buenaventura is the granddaughter of the late National Artist Antonino Buenaventura.

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